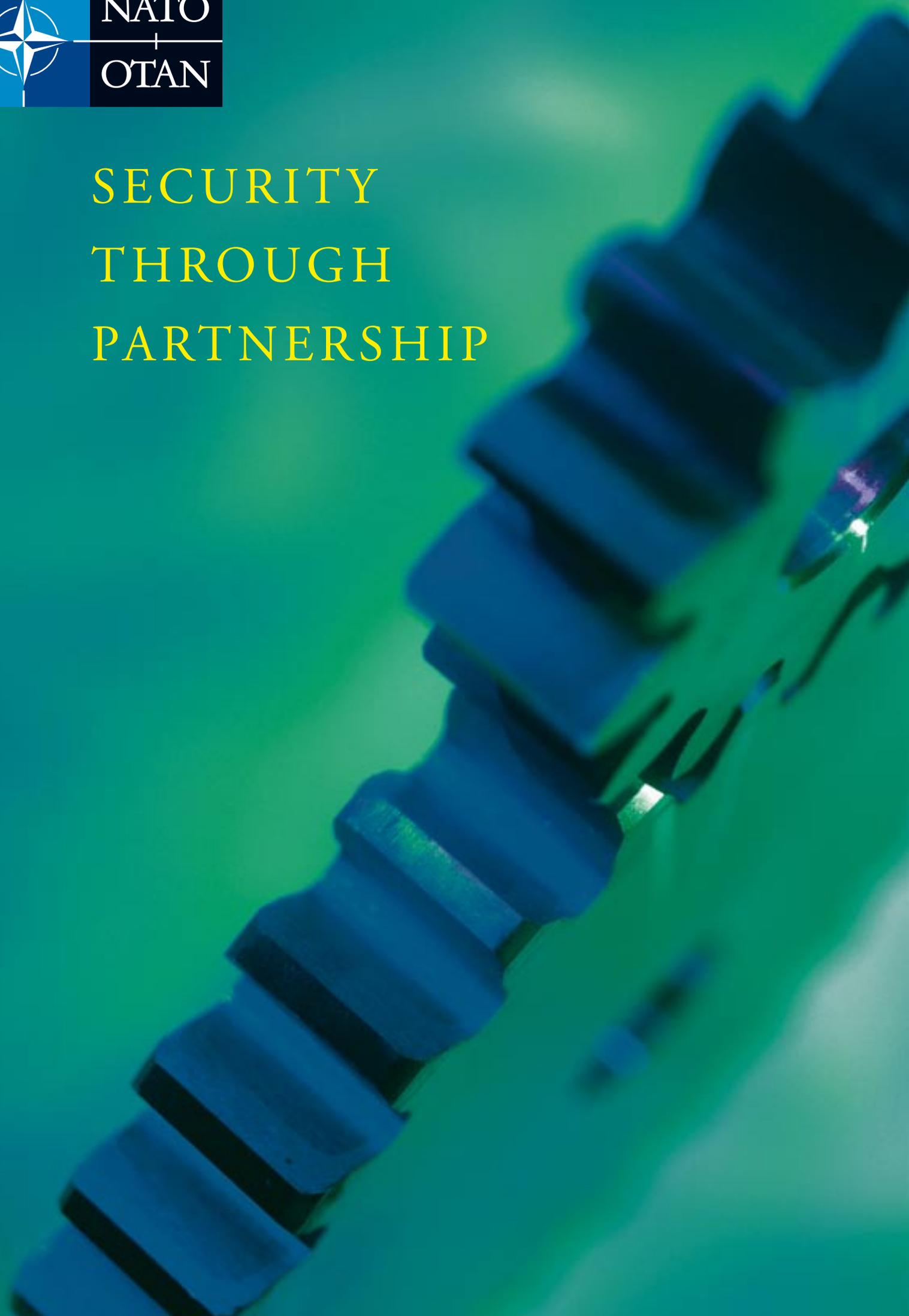




NATO
+
OTAN

SECURITY
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP





SECURITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Foreword

This brochure seeks to explain the basic principles underlying the Euro-Atlantic Partnership and its essential mechanisms. It then focuses on five key spheres of activity – security dialogue and cooperation, peace-support operations, defence reform, disaster-preparedness, and cooperation in the areas of science and the environment – which show how Euro-Atlantic security is enhanced through Partnership and how cooperation is of genuine, practical relevance to Partner countries. Partnership activities can be seen to impact positively on reform, on the development of democratic structures, and on the participation of Partner countries in multinational cooperation as members of the wider international community.

It would be impossible to do justice in a single publication to the full breadth and range of activities in which Partner countries work together with NATO. Such activities include not only the well-reported peace-support operations in the Balkans and Afghanistan but also cooperation in many other areas such as the fight against terrorism, defence reform, economic aspects of security, disaster-preparedness, arms control, logistics, air defence, airspace management, armaments, education and training, science and the environment, and information programmes.

NATO has also developed special relationships with two Partner countries, Russia and Ukraine, and with the seven countries participating in the Mediterranean Dialogue. Moreover, the Alliance is exploring possibilities for cooperation with countries in the broader region of the Middle East through an initiative launched at the June 2004 Istanbul Summit. While these relationships are not covered specifically in this brochure, current and prospective cooperation with these countries builds on many of the activities and mechanisms developed in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership.

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Note: References in this publication to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are marked by an asterisk (*) referring to the following footnote: *Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.*

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Origins and evolution of Partnership

November 1989 saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, signalling the end of the Cold War. Within a short period, the remarkable pace of change in Central and Eastern Europe left NATO faced with a new and very different set of security challenges. Political change on an unprecedented scale had opened up great opportunities for enhancing security in Europe, but would inevitably involve new uncertainties and the potential for instability.

What could be done to seize the opportunity to set European security affairs on a new, more positive path after the confrontations of the Cold War? What steps could be taken to restore normality to relations among all the countries of Europe, East and West? What help could be given to the states of Central and Eastern Europe to consolidate their newly found independence and to realise their ambitions to participate fully as democratic countries, both regionally and in the wider world, in addressing multinational security concerns?

Allied leaders responded at their summit meeting in London, in July 1990, by extending a “hand of friendship” across the old East-West divide and proposing a new cooperative relationship with all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The scene was set for the establishment in December 1991 of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), a forum which would bring together NATO and its new Partner countries to discuss issues of common concern. (Such was the pace of change in Europe at the time that the first meeting of the NACC itself witnessed a historic event: as the final communiqué was being agreed, the Soviet ambassador announced that the Soviet Union had dissolved during the meeting and that he now only represented the Russian Federation.)

This sea-change in attitudes was enshrined in a new strategic concept for the Alliance, issued in November 1991, which adopted a broader approach to security. The opportunities for

> The end of the Cold War opened up new opportunities for enhancing security and developing cooperation.



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“This Partnership is established as an expression of a joint conviction that stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area can be achieved only through cooperation and common action. Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership.”

(Partnership for Peace: Framework Document – Brussels Summit, 10 January 1994)

achieving Alliance objectives through political means were greater than ever before. While the defence dimension remained indispensable, more prominence could now be given to economic, social and environmental issues as a means of promoting stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area as a whole. Dialogue and cooperation would be essential parts of the approach required to manage the diversity of challenges facing the Alliance. With the Cold War over, the key goals were now to reduce the risk of conflict arising out of misunderstanding or design and to better manage crises affecting the security of the Allies; to increase mutual understanding and confidence among all European states; and to expand the opportunities for genuine partnership in dealing with common security problems.

In the immediate post-Cold War period, NACC consultations focused on residual Cold War security concerns such as the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic States. Political cooperation was also launched on a number of security and defence-related issues. The NACC broke new ground in many ways. However, it

focused on multilateral, political dialogue and lacked the possibility of each Partner developing individual cooperative relations with NATO.

This changed in 1994 with the launch of the Partnership for Peace (PfP), a major programme of practical bilateral cooperation between NATO and individual Partner countries, which represented a significant leap forward in the cooperative process. And, in 1997, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) was created to replace the NACC and to build on its achievements, paving the way for the development of an enhanced and more operational partnership.

The essence of partnership and cooperation at the multinational level consists of regular consultations and cooperative activities designed to build transparency and confidence throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. At the bilateral level it calls for the development of a practical working relationship between individual Partner countries and NATO, tailored to their particular situations and requirements.

The Partnership process involves building dialogue and understanding between all the countries involved, many of which are former adversaries as members of opposing alliances, or have had long-standing regional, territorial, political, ethnic or religious disputes. Joint activities aimed at finding common solutions to common security challenges have led to important achievements in overcoming past prejudices and in establishing a clear vision of the mutual benefits to be gained from cooperation.

Since the launch of the Partnership process, remarkable progress has been made, even if there have been set-backs and difficulties, which were perhaps unavoidable given the complex process of political, economic and social change taking place in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The EAPC and the PfP programme have steadily developed their own dynamic, as successive steps have been taken by NATO and its Partner countries to extend security cooperation, building on the partnership arrangements they have created. As NATO has transformed over the years to meet the new challenges of the evolving security environment, Partnership has developed. To retain its dynamism and relevance to the Alliance, the activities and mechanisms of Partnership have had to be adapted to meet NATO's new priorities (see *chapter on "Essential mechanisms"*).

Equally, the Partnership has had to be deepened and broadened to meet the aspirations of different Partner countries and remain an attractive proposition to them. Two rounds of NATO enlargement have changed the balance between Allies and Partners (see *box*). As of March 2004, there were more Allies than Partners – and the remaining Partners are a very diverse group. They

include Balkan countries still dealing with the legacies of their past, the strategically important but underdeveloped countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the Western European non-aligned states. While some are in the process of developing their defence structures and capabilities, others are able to contribute significant forces to NATO-led operations and to offer fellow Partner countries advice, training and assistance in various areas.

Today, 20 Partners use the EAPC to consult regularly with the 26 Allies and to develop cooperation on issues encompassing many different aspects of defence and security. Their military forces frequently exercise and interact together; their soldiers serve alongside each other in NATO-led peacekeeping operations; and Allies and Partners are working together in common cause against the threat of terrorism. No-one at the time the Cold War ended would have predicted this dramatic evolution in the Euro-Atlantic strategic environment.

The original objective of NATO's partnership policy was to break down barriers and to build security through dialogue and cooperation. Today, the objectives are much more ambitious, for Partner countries are engaged with NATO in tackling 21st century security challenges, including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and failed states.

ALLIES AND PARTNERS

Over the years, 30 countries have joined the Partnership – Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Special relationships have been developed with Russia and Ukraine since 1997, with the signing of the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security and the NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership. Relations with Russia have since been intensified with the creation in 2002 of the NATO-Russia Council, in which the Allies and Russia meet on an equal basis. Steps were taken to deepen and broaden the NATO-Ukraine relationship in November 2002 with the adoption of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, which supports Ukraine's reform efforts on the road to full integration in Euro-Atlantic security structures.

Ten Partner countries have become Allies. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined the Alliance in 1999, followed by Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in 2004. Three candidate countries are working to prepare themselves for future membership, namely Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro also hope to join the Partnership for Peace and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. NATO supports their aspirations, but has set requirements that need to be met first. These include full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, in particular the detention of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the most notorious war-crimes suspects. In the meantime, NATO is already supporting defence reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Limited security cooperation is also underway with Serbia and Montenegro, including the participation of military officers and civilians in NATO orientation courses aimed at familiarising them with the Alliance, crisis-management issues, peace-support operations and civil-military cooperation.



Essential mechanisms

NATO regularly consults with its Partners through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), which provides the overall political framework for relations with Partners. Each Partner is also able to build up an individual relationship with the Alliance through the Partnership for Peace (PfP), a programme of practical activities within which Partners can choose their own priorities for cooperation. These two essential mechanisms of Partnership have become key fixtures of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

Steps have been taken to further deepen cooperation between Allies and Partners at successive summit meetings in Madrid (1997), Washington (1999), Prague (2002) and Istanbul (2004). These initiatives were based on the shared values and principles that underlie cooperation, and demonstrated the continued commitment to the pursuit of the basic objective of the Partnership: to strengthen and extend peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond.

MILESTONES IN PARTNERSHIP

- 1991** First meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council
- 1994** Launch of the Partnership for Peace (PfP); Partner missions to NATO are established; A Partnership Coordination Cell is set up at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)
- 1995** An International Coordination Centre is established at SHAPE
- 1996** Partner countries participate in a NATO-led force created to implement the Bosnian peace agreement
- 1997** First meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in Sintra, Portugal; At subsequent NATO and EAPC summit meetings in Madrid, Spain, the operational role of PfP is enhanced
- 1998** Creation of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre and Disaster Response Unit
- 1999** Three Partners – Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – join NATO; Dialogue and cooperation are included in the Alliance's Strategic Concept as parts of its fundamental security tasks; At the Washington Summit it is agreed to further enhance PfP and strengthen its operational role; Partner countries deploy troops as part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force
- 2001** 12 September, EAPC meets to condemn the terrorist attacks on the United States and pledges to combat the scourge of terrorism
- 2002** Comprehensive review leads to strengthening of EAPC and PfP at Prague Summit; Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism is launched
- 2003** Partner countries contribute troops to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan
- 2004** Seven Partners – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – join NATO; Further steps are taken to strengthen Partnership at Istanbul Summit; Partnership Action Plan for Defence Institution Building is launched

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council brings together NATO members and Partners, currently a total of 46 countries, in a multilateral forum for regular dialogue and consultation on political and security-related issues. It also serves as the political framework for the individual bilateral relationships developed between NATO and countries participating in the Partnership for Peace.

The decision, in 1997, to create the EAPC reflected a desire to move beyond the achievements of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council to build a security forum for a more enhanced and operational partnership. The new forum was set up to match the increasingly sophisticated relationships being developed with Partners under the PfP programme and in the context of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where troops from 14 Partner countries had deployed in 1996 to serve alongside Allied counterparts. This complemented steps taken in parallel to enhance the role of the Partnership for Peace by increasing the involvement of Partner countries in decision-making and planning across the entire spectrum of Partnership activities. The establishment of the EAPC also opened the Partnership framework, originally developed to engage former Warsaw Pact countries, to include non-aligned Western European countries.

In addition to short-term consultations in the EAPC on current political and security-related issues, longer-term consultation and cooperation takes place in a wide range of areas. These include, but are not limited to, crisis-management and peace-support operations; regional issues; arms control and issues related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; international terrorism; defence issues such as planning, budgeting, policy and strategy; civil emergency planning and disaster-preparedness; armaments cooperation; nuclear safety; civil-military coordination of air-traffic management; and scientific cooperation.

> Meetings of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council are chaired by NATO's Secretary General.



The EAPC has at its disposal a range of options, depending on the subjects under discussion, which allows for meetings among all Allies and Partners, or in smaller but open-ended working groups. This flexibility is key to its success.

Most Partner countries have established diplomatic missions at NATO's headquarters in Brussels, which facilitates regular communications and enables consultation to take place whenever there is a need for it. Meetings of the EAPC are held monthly at the level of ambassadors, annually at the level of foreign and defence ministers and chiefs of defence, as well as occasionally at summit level. As of 2005, a new high-level EAPC Security Forum will meet annually to discuss important security issues and look at how NATO and Partner countries can best address them together.

Partnership for Peace

Based on the practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles that underpin the Alliance itself, the purpose of the Partnership for Peace is to increase stability, diminish threats to peace and build strengthened security relationships between individual Partner countries and NATO, as well as among Partner countries.

The essence of the PfP programme is the partnership formed individually between each Partner country and NATO, tailored to individual needs and jointly implemented at the level and pace chosen by each participating government. Through the Partnership for Peace, a comprehensive tool kit has been developed to support the implementation of PfP aims and objectives, and to translate ideas into action. The instruments and initiatives that have been developed, described below, provide a framework for both bilateral and multilateral actions, offering Partners effective and transparent programmes to support their engagement with NATO.

The formal basis for the Partnership for Peace is the Framework Document, which sets out specific undertakings for each Partner country. Each Partner makes a number of far-reaching political commitments to preserve democratic societies; to maintain the principles of international law; to fulfil obligations under the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act and international disarmament and arms control agreements; to refrain from the threat or use of force against other states; to respect existing borders; and to settle disputes peacefully. Specific commitments are also made to promote transparency in national defence planning and budgeting to establish democratic control over armed forces, and to develop the capacity for joint action with NATO in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. The Framework Document also enshrines a commitment by the Allies to consult with any Partner country that perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence or security – a mechanism which, for example, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* made use of during the Kosovo crisis.

Partner countries choose individual activities based on their ambitions and abilities. These are put forward to the Allies in a Presentation Document. An Individual Partnership Programme is then jointly developed and agreed between NATO and each Partner country. These two-year programmes are drawn up from an extensive menu of activities, according to each country's specific interests and needs. Cooperation focuses in particular on defence-related work, defence reform and managing the consequences of defence reform, but touches on virtually every field of NATO activity, including defence policy and planning, civil-military relations, education and training, air defence, communications and information systems, crisis management, and civil emergency planning.



> Croatia signs up to the Partnership for Peace Framework Document in May 2000.

Significant initiatives were launched at the Washington Summit in April 1999 to increase the operational focus of the Partnership for Peace and the involvement of Partner countries in PfP decision-making and planning. These included the introduction of an Operational Capabilities Concept and a Political-Military Framework. A Training and Education Enhancement Programme was also launched to help reinforce the operational capabilities of Partner countries through training and education of their militaries.

The Operational Capabilities Concept has been developed to improve the ability of Alliance and Partner forces to operate together in NATO-led PfP operations. The aim is to provide increased flexibility in putting together tailored force packages to mount and sustain future NATO-led PfP operations. The mechanism focuses on the forces and capabilities potentially available for such operations. The enhanced peacetime working relationships developing progressively between Partner and Alliance headquarters and staffs, and between Allied and Partner formations, facilitate the integration of these forces into NATO-led forces. At the Istanbul Summit, it was stipulated that, as a part of implementing the Operational Capabilities Concept, interoperability standards and related assessments will be harmonised with respective NATO mechanisms.

The Political-Military Framework sets out principles, modalities and other guidance for Partner involvement in political consultations and decision-making, in operational planning and in command arrangements. At Istanbul, the need to involve Partners earlier in the decision-shaping process was emphasised. The provisions of this framework document are being implemented in all NATO-led operations with Partners and are also used as general guidance for Partner contributions to other NATO activities, such as exercises and PfP Trust Funds.

To integrate Partner countries better in the daily work of the Partnership, PfP Staff Elements, manned by officers from Partner countries, have been established at several NATO headquarters. A Partnership Coordination Cell at NATO's Operational Command, which is based at Mons in

Belgium, helps coordinate PfP training and exercises. Moreover, an International Coordination Centre provides briefing and planning facilities for all non-NATO countries contributing troops to NATO-led peacekeeping operations (see p. 23).

To ensure that Partner forces are better able to operate with NATO militaries in peacekeeping operations, guidance on interoperability or capability requirements is provided under a PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP). This process has contributed significantly to the close cooperation of Partner countries in NATO-led peace-support operations in the Balkans and in Afghanistan. The PARP mechanism is modelled on NATO's own force planning system and offered to Partners on an optional basis. Planning targets, or Partnership Goals, are negotiated with each participating country and extensive reviews measure progress. Over the years, the PARP's requirements have become more complex, demanding and linked to the capability improvements that Allies have set themselves. The PARP is also used by Partners to develop effective, affordable and sustainable armed forces and to promote wider defence reform efforts. This mechanism has, for example, played a central part in Ukraine's comprehensive defence reforms (see p. 25).

A number of Partnership initiatives help Partners manage the consequences of defence reform, most notably the PfP Trust Fund policy (see box p. 28), which offers practical support for the safe destruction of anti-personnel mines and surplus weapons, as well as for the retraining of military personnel and the conversion of military bases.

> A Swiss KFOR helicopter flies over Pristina, Kosovo: Promoting cooperation in NATO-led peacekeeping operations is a key focus of Partnership.



Deepening cooperation

Further steps were taken at the Prague Summit in November 2002 to deepen cooperation between NATO and Partner countries. A comprehensive review of the EAPC and the Partnership for Peace recommended strengthening the political dialogue with Partners and further enhancing their involvement in the planning, conduct and oversight of activities in which they participate.

A new cooperative mechanism, the Partnership Action Plan, was introduced at Prague. The first to be developed was the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (see p. 15). Another new initiative was the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), which, rather than drawing from a menu of activities, allows the Alliance to tailor its assistance to interested Partner countries which have asked for more structured support for domestic reforms, particularly in the defence and security sector, according to their specific needs and circumstances (see box).

Building on progress made at Prague, more steps were taken at the Istanbul Summit in June 2004 to strengthen the Euro-Atlantic Partnership and further tailor it to tackle key thematic issues and address individual Partners' needs and capabilities.

A Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building was launched to encourage and support Partners in building effective and democratically responsible defence institutions (see p. 24).

The opportunities for Partners to enhance their contributions to NATO-led operations will be increased by involving troop-contributing countries earlier in the decision-making process and providing more possibilities for political consultation. In addition, the Operational Capabilities Concept will be enhanced and Partners will be offered the opportunity of representation at Allied Command Transformation, which is responsible for promoting and overseeing the continuous transformation of Alliance forces and capabilities. This will help promote greater military interoperability between NATO and Partner country forces and the transformation of defences in keeping with NATO's own evolving operational roles and capabilities.

A decision was also taken to put special focus on engaging with Partner countries in two strategically important regions, namely the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). NATO has assigned a special representative for the two regions as well as two liaison officers. Their role is to assist and provide advice in implementing

relevant aspects of Individual Partnership Action Plans, where appropriate, as well as the Partnership Action Plans on Defence Institution Building and against Terrorism, and cooperation focused on the PARP mechanism.

Further information:

www.nato.int/issues/eapc/index.html

www.nato.int/issues/pfp/index.html

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLANS

Launched at the November 2002 Prague Summit, Individual Partnership Action Plans (IPAPs) are open to countries that have the political will and ability to deepen their relationship with NATO. Developed on a two-year basis, such plans are designed to bring together all the various cooperation mechanisms through which a Partner interacts with the Alliance, sharpening the focus of activities to better support their domestic reform efforts.

An IPAP should clearly set out the cooperation objectives and priorities of the individual Partner, and ensure that the various mechanisms in use correspond directly to these priorities. NATO will provide focused, country-specific advice on reform objectives. Intensified political dialogue on relevant issues may be an integral part of an IPAP process.

IPAPs will also make it easier to coordinate bilateral assistance provided by individual Allies and Partners, as well as to coordinate efforts with other relevant international institutions.

Objectives covered fall into the general categories of political and security issues; defence, security and military issues; public information; science and environment; civil emergency planning; and administrative, protective security and resource issues.

In November 2004, Georgia became the first country to have an IPAP with NATO. IPAPs with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are currently under development. Armenia has also expressed interest in developing such a plan.

> The Euro-Atlantic Partnership was further strengthened at the June 2004 Istanbul Summit.



Security dialogue and cooperation

As the security environment evolves, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership too is evolving to address a host of security issues of critical importance to Allies and Partners alike. Regular exchanges of views are held on the evolution of the security situations in the Balkans and Afghanistan, where Allied and Partner peacekeepers are deployed together. Initiatives are being taken to promote and coordinate practical cooperation and the exchange of expertise in key areas such as combating terrorism and tackling issues related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of small and light weapons.

Many security challenges are best addressed by working closely with neighbouring countries. The EAPC and the PfP programme also provide a framework within which to promote and support cooperation on key issues between Partner countries at the regional and sub-regional level, particularly in Southeast Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Combating terrorism

Combating terrorism is now one of NATO's top priorities. The attacks of 11 September 2001 on the United States led to the first-ever invocation by NATO of Article 5 (the collective defence clause of the Alliance's founding treaty). Meeting at very short notice the next day, NATO and Partner country ambassadors unconditionally condemned the attacks and pledged to undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism.

“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.”

(EAPC statement, 12 September 2001)

The solidarity expressed on that day by EAPC members – stretching from North America and Europe to Central Asia – and the cooperation that has since been manifest in the campaign against terrorism show how NATO's Partnership initiatives have sown the seeds of a true Euro-Atlantic security culture.

The shared determination to join forces against the terrorist threat was given concrete expression in the launch of a Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism at the Prague Summit. This Action Plan provides a framework for cooperation and the sharing of expertise in this area through political consultation and practical measures. It is leading to improved intelligence-sharing and cooperation in areas such as border security, terrorism-related training and exercises, and the development of capabilities for defence against terrorist attack or for dealing with the consequences of such an attack (see p. 32). It also promotes work to ensure the physical security and safe destruction of surplus munitions and small arms and light weapons, such as shoulder-fired rocket and grenade launchers.

Tackling proliferation

Weapons of mass destruction

Countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is one of the key security challenges of the 21st century. NATO's dialogue with Partners plays a distinct role in the achievement of the Alliance's non-proliferation goals. Confidence and trust are necessary conditions for non-proliferation efforts to succeed, and can only be achieved through openness and transparency.

Through consultations with Partners, the Alliance seeks to increase common understanding and information-sharing on proliferation-related issues. Such consultations, which address both political and defence efforts and involve both foreign and defence ministries, usefully contribute to building confidence. Moreover, several Partner countries have a strong background in terms of preparedness for WMD contingencies and can therefore significantly contribute to and strengthen joint efforts in this area.

Several seminars and workshops have looked at specific issues. Subjects have included in-depth discussions on "Anthrax – lessons learned" which identified some of the key contingency planning points to emerge from the experience of autumn 2001 in the United States and elsewhere. Another topic has been problems associated with environmental industrial hazards and other medical-operational challenges.



> The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious security challenge in the 21st century.

EAPC workshops on the potential risks associated with biological and chemical weapons have permitted Partners to exchange information and forge best practices. Research and development into new capabilities and equipment designed to protect against WMD agents are discussed, facilitating understanding of the best means to enhance overall preparedness.

Disarmament experts from NATO and Partner countries have had the opportunity to discuss the political and intelligence-sharing aspects of WMD proliferation. Consultations focused on some of the main trends in proliferation and included presentations from non-EAPC countries (such as China, Japan, Israel and South Korea) on regional perspectives. Partners have exchanged information on export control practices and implementation of recent non-proliferation initiatives, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

Alliance members have also briefed Partners on NATO's activities in the specific area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defence, in particular the creation and deployment of the NATO CBRN Defence Battalion.

Action against mines and small arms

The dangers arising from the spread of cheap and indiscriminate weapons of war have become the focus of growing international concern. Easy to acquire and easy to use, small arms help fuel and prolong armed conflicts. All too frequently, the targets and the victims of the increase in violence are civilians. According to the United Nations and other sources, of the four million war-related deaths during the 1990s, 90 per cent were civilians and 80 per cent of those were women and children. It is estimated that there are over half a billion small arms and light weapons in the world – enough for one in every 12 people. They are implicated in over 1,000 deaths every day. In the case of anti-personnel mines, estimates put the total number buried in the ground world-wide at 100 million. On average, a landmine explodes every 22 minutes, killing or maiming around 26,000 people every year.

Multilateral initiatives have been launched at the global, regional and local levels to tackle the spread of small arms and to address the need for humanitarian mine action. NATO and Partner countries seek to complement these efforts by bringing the Partnership's politico-military expertise to bear on these challenges in the Euro-Atlantic area.



> The spread of small arms and light weapons is the focus of growing international concern.

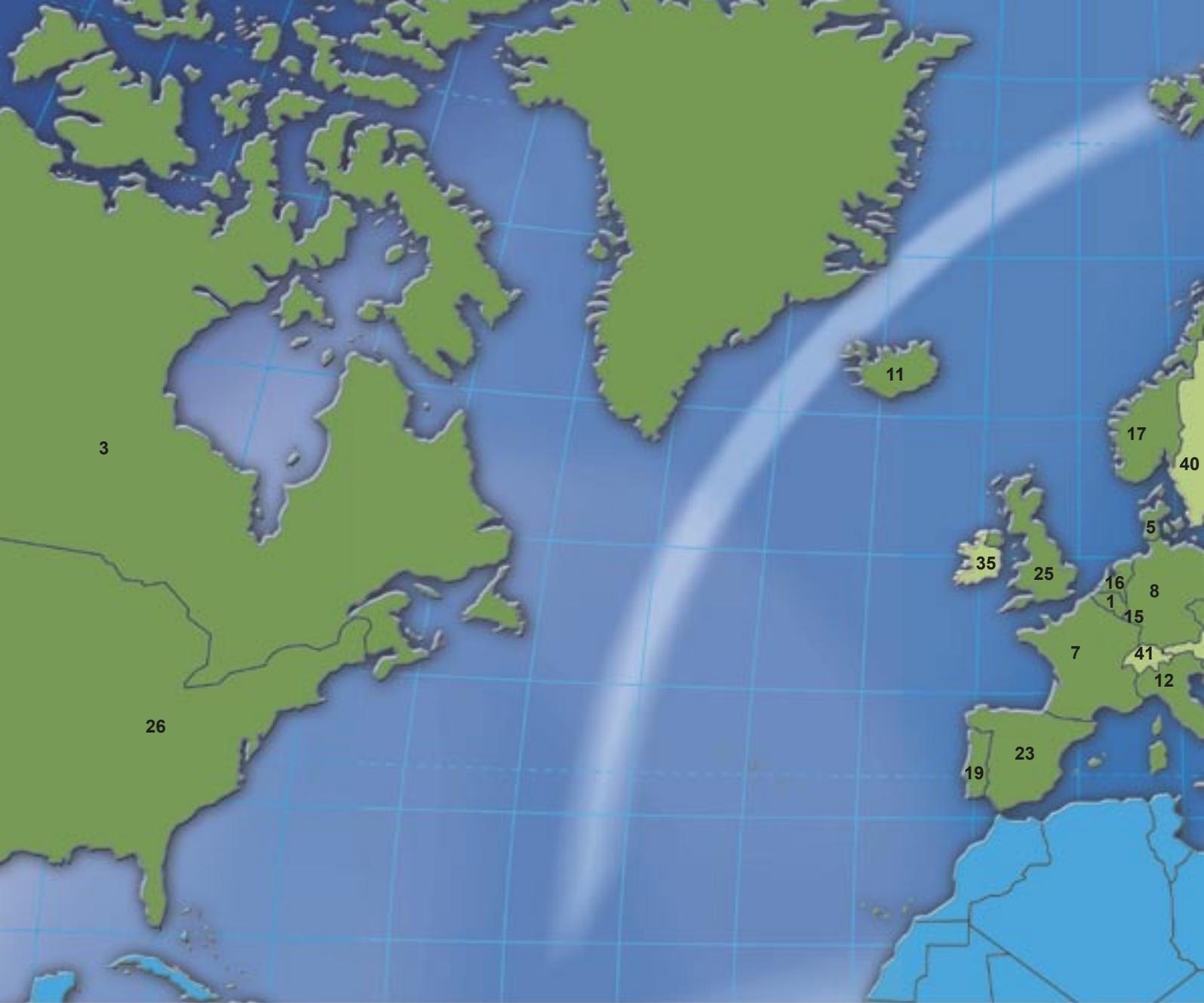
The EAPC has set up an Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action to provide a forum for exchanging information on how best to control the transfer of such weapons, for example, through national export controls and enforcement mechanisms. The PfP programme also seeks to promote training in stockpile management and secure storage, disposal and destruction of surplus stocks, as well as weapons collection and destruction during peacekeeping operations. In addition, tailored assistance is being provided to individual countries on request.

The landmine issue is being addressed in the same working group as well as through the PfP programme. Seminars and workshops have focused on specific aspects of the problem. Moreover, while it is the United Nations Mine Action Services that have the leading responsibility for humanitarian demining in the field, NATO and Partner troops deployed in the peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and Afghanistan have regularly assisted civilian organisations in humanitarian demining efforts. In the Balkans, 26 million square metres have been cleared of mines and, in Afghanistan, ISAF forces are assisting with clearance of landmines at Kabul International Airport and elsewhere throughout their area of operations.

A PfP Trust Fund mechanism (see p. 28) was set up in 2000 to channel funds from donor nations to support the destruction of anti-personnel landmines. More than two million anti-personnel landmines had been destroyed by December 2004 and more projects are foreseen in the future. The scope of the Trust Fund policy has since been extended to cover the destruction of surplus munitions and small arms and light weapons.

> NATO and Partner peacekeepers frequently support humanitarian demining efforts.





 NATO COUNTRIES

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Belgium (1) |  Lithuania (14) |
|  Bulgaria (2) |  Luxembourg (15) |
|  Canada (3) |  Netherlands (16) |
|  Czech Republic (4) |  Norway (17) |
|  Denmark (5) |  Poland (18) |
|  Estonia (6) |  Portugal (19) |
|  France (7) |  Romania (20) |
|  Germany (8) |  Slovakia (21) |
|  Greece (9) |  Slovenia (22) |
|  Hungary (10) |  Spain (23) |
|  Iceland (11) |  Turkey (24) |
|  Italy (12) |  United Kingdom (25) |
|  Latvia (13) |  United States (26) |



 PARTNER COUNTRIES

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
|  | Albania (27) |  | Kyrgyz Republic (37) |
|  | Armenia (28) |  | Moldova (38) |
|  | Austria (29) |  | Russia (39) |
|  | Azerbaijan (30) |  | Sweden (40) |
|  | Belarus (31) |  | Switzerland (41) |
|  | Croatia (32) |  | Tajikistan (42) |
|  | Finland (33) |  | the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (43) |
|  | Georgia (34) |  | Turkmenistan (44) |
|  | Ireland (35) |  | Ukraine (45) |
|  | Kazakhstan (36) |  | Uzbekistan (46) |

* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

Peace-support operations

> Partner countries are making an essential contribution to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.



Partner countries have played a critical role in the NATO-led peace-support operations in the Balkans and they are now also making an essential contribution to NATO's mission in Afghanistan. The participation of Partner countries in these operations enhances security in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond. It enables Partner forces to gain practical experience of working together with Allied forces to help restore stability to crisis areas. It also helps ease the burden of the multiplication of missions on members of the Alliance. Moreover, Partner involvement in a NATO-led operation underscores a broad international consensus to help manage crises and prevent the spread of instability.

Soldiers from a large number of Partner countries have become used to working alongside NATO counterparts, learning how the Alliance operates in complex and difficult circumstances. This, more than any other single factor, has been critical in improving relations and building confidence and understanding between military forces, which until the end of the Cold War, formed hostile alliances confronting each other across a divided continent. Today, NATO and Partner countries are working together in the field to confront the challenges of the 21st century.

The Afghanistan mission

NATO has been leading the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan since August 2003. The mission of this UN-mandated force is to assist the Afghan authorities in efforts to bring peace and stability to the country, which is recovering from two decades of civil war, and to prevent it from being used again as a base for terrorists.

The original mandate limited ISAF operations to Kabul and the surrounding areas but has since been expanded beyond the capital under a new UN mandate. ISAF's presence has gradually been extended into the north of the country by the establishment of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) – teams of civilian and military personnel working in the provinces to extend the authority of the central government and to facilitate development and reconstruction. Preparations to expand further into regions west of Kabul got underway in the autumn of 2004. Moreover, extra troops were deployed for eight weeks to support the electoral process in the run-up to and during the presidential elections that took place in October 2004.

In September 2004, ten Partner countries were participating in ISAF, some supplying valuable specialised forces such as military police and demining teams. Moreover, Partner countries in Central Asia have been instrumental in ensuring the logistic supply of ISAF forces as equipment must cross several Partner countries before arriving in Afghanistan. Relationships developed through the Partnership for Peace have laid the basis for Allies to draw up bilateral agreements for the transit of material across these states and the basing of forces and supplies on their territory. For example, Germany and Uzbekistan have concluded a formal agreement on the use of the military airfield in Termez, near the border with Afghanistan, to help ensure an air bridge to Kabul and northern parts of Afghanistan; an agreement between the Netherlands and the Kyrgyz Republic allows Dutch F-16 fighter aircraft to operate from the airport in Bishkek; and France has a similar agreement with Tajikistan, allowing it to operate a logistics hub in Dushanbe. Given the diverse ethnic make-up of Afghanistan, several Central Asian Partners also have influence on important local actors, which they can use in support of ISAF objectives.

The type of assistance being provided by Partners to ISAF, an operation far from NATO's traditional perimeter, is one of the reasons why Partnership is so important for the Alliance.

The Balkan operations

Ever since the initial deployment of the Alliance's first-ever peacekeeping mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Partner countries have been an integral part of the NATO-led peace-support operations in the Balkans. Over the years, as much as 10 per cent of troops participating in the NATO-led peace-support operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 18 per cent of peacekeeping troops making up the Kosovo Force (KFOR) have been contributed by Partner countries and other non-NATO countries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Troops from 14 Partner countries were part of the Implementation Force (IFOR) that deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accord on 14 December 1995. With a mandate from the United Nations to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement, IFOR's mission was to secure an end to hostilities; to separate the armed forces of the war-torn country's newly created entities (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska); and to transfer territory between the two territories.

IFOR was replaced by the smaller Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in December 1996. In addition to deterring a resumption of hostilities and promoting a climate in which the peace process could move forward, SFOR's mission was extended to include support for civilian agencies involved in the international community's efforts



> A Swedish SFOR peacekeeper and his dog check the ground for mines.

to build a lasting peace in the country. The peacekeeping troops helped refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes and contributed to reforming the Bosnian military forces. As the security situation gradually improved, the number of peacekeepers in the country was progressively reduced from the 60,000 troops that were originally deployed to some 7,000 in 2004.

The NATO-led operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was brought to an end in December 2004, when responsibilities for maintaining security were handed over to a follow-on mission led by the European Union. The successful accomplishment of SFOR's mission is testimony to the wisdom of taking a broad, long-term perspective on peacekeeping and reconstruction. It is also a vindication of the patience and persistence that Allies and Partner countries have shown in the entire Balkans region over the preceding decade, and which they continue to show with regard to Kosovo.

The termination of SFOR has not meant the end of NATO's engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. NATO has retained its own military headquarters in the country, which is focusing on helping the Bosnian authorities with defence reform and in preparing the country for membership of the Partnership for Peace. It is also working on counter-terrorism, apprehending war-crimes suspects and intelligence-gathering.

Kosovo

A NATO-led peacekeeping force deployed to the Serbian province of Kosovo, after a 78-day Allied air campaign against targets in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had forced the Milosevic regime to agree to the international community's demands to withdraw Serbian forces from Kosovo, to end the violent repression of ethnic Albanians and to allow refugees to return.

The conclusion of a Military Technical Agreement between NATO and Yugoslav commanders allowed the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to deploy to the province in June 1999 under a UN mandate. Its mission is to deter renewed

hostility, establish a secure environment and support the international humanitarian effort and the work of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

At full strength, KFOR's initial deployment numbered some 43,000 troops. Progressive troop reductions have more than halved this figure. In October 2004, the 18,000-strong force was made up of troops from most NATO member states, nine Partner countries and two other non-NATO countries, namely Argentina and Morocco.

In close cooperation with UNMIK, KFOR is helping build a secure environment in Kosovo in which the growth of democracy can be fostered with international aid. Civil reconstruction is underway and a measure of security and normal life has been re-established in the province. However, as the outbreak of inter-ethnic violence in March 2004 demonstrated, significant challenges remain and there is a continued need for a robust military presence in Kosovo.

Working together

One of the key aims of the Partnership for Peace is to develop Partner country forces so that they are able to work together with NATO forces in peacekeeping activities (*see also pp. 10-11*). Bilateral programmes and military exercises help Partner countries to develop forces with the capacity to participate in peacekeeping activities alongside NATO forces. Learning to speak the same language, English, and developing interoperability are of key importance. Increasingly, their military forces are adapting to the Alliance's operational norms to help ensure effectiveness in the field and are adopting procedures and systems compatible with those used by NATO. The Operational Capabilities Concept plays a major role in this respect. A Partnership Coordination Cell, established at SHAPE in 1994, supports the NATO strategic commands in the coordination of PfP training and exercises.

The participation of Partners and other non-NATO countries in NATO-led peace-support operations is guided by the Political-Military Framework. It is facilitated by the International Coordination Centre established at SHAPE in October 1995 to provide briefing and planning facilities for all non-NATO troop contributing countries. Individual participation by the various states is subject to a financial and technical agreement, which is worked out between each troop-contributing country and NATO, once proposed contributions to such operations have been assessed. Each Partner country assumes responsibility for the deployment of its contingents and for providing the support needed to enable them to function effectively. In some cases, support is also made available on a bilateral basis by a NATO member country.

Although most non-NATO countries that contribute troops to NATO-led peacekeeping operations belong to the PfP programme and come from Europe, several troop-contributors are from other continents and some have no formal relationship with the Alliance. From

South America, Argentina has contributed peacekeepers to both SFOR and KFOR, and Chile has also contributed to SFOR. Among countries participating in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, Jordan and Morocco have contributed peacekeepers to SFOR and KFOR, and Egyptian peacekeepers have served in the NATO-led forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another Arab country, the United Arab Emirates, has also contributed a large contingent to KFOR. From South-East Asia, Malaysia has contributed to both IFOR and SFOR. And, as part of exchange programmes with the United Kingdom, Australian and New Zealand soldiers were seconded by their countries to serve as peacekeepers in the Balkans. A small team of New Zealanders is also serving as part of ISAF.



Russian peacekeepers

For over seven years, until their withdrawal from SFOR and KFOR in summer 2003, Russia provided the largest non-NATO contingents to the peacekeeping forces in the Balkans, where Russian soldiers worked alongside Allied and other Partner counterparts to support the international community's efforts to build lasting security and stability in the region.

Russian peacekeepers first deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 1996, where they were part of a multinational brigade in the northern sector, conducting daily patrols and security checks and helping with reconstruction and humanitarian tasks. Having played a vital diplomatic role in securing an end to the Kosovo conflict, despite differences over NATO's 1999 air campaign, Russian troops deployed to Kosovo in June 1999, where they worked as part of multinational brigades in the east, north and south of the province as well as helping run the Pristina airfield and providing medical facilities and services.

Defence reform

With the end of the Cold War, the threat of an East-West confrontation disappeared. Mass armies and huge stockpiles of weapons and munitions were no longer needed. Many looked forward to a peace dividend resulting from reduced defence expenditures. However, carrying out defence reforms is neither cheap nor easy. Moreover, NATO and Partner countries were soon facing new security challenges and having to adapt their armed forces to the changed security environment, which would inevitably have economic consequences.

NATO member countries have been gradually reducing levels of military personnel, equipment and bases, and transforming their forces so that they are better able to meet today's defence needs. Many Partner countries are just beginning this long and difficult process, often with scarce resources and limited expertise. They face the daunting task of restructuring and retraining military forces which formed part of a heavily militarised environment and are no longer affordable or appropriate in the context of democratic change. In transforming their armed forces, a key priority is also to develop capabilities that will enable them to make effective contributions to crisis-management and peacekeeping operations in the Euro-Atlantic area. Another important aspect of defence reform is to ensure that its consequences are properly managed.

One of the most important contributions of the Partnership for Peace has been the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP, *see p. 11*) with its goal-setting and review mechanisms, complemented by programmes developed bilaterally between NATO and individual Partner countries, which enable NATO countries and Western European Partners to share expertise and provide assistance in tackling the extensive conceptual and practical problems of defence reform.

Promoting comprehensive defence reform

Building effective institutions

Effective and efficient state defence institutions under civilian and democratic control are fundamental to stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, and essential for international security cooperation. In recognition of this, a new Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building, endorsed by the heads of state and government of EAPC countries, was launched at the Istanbul Summit in June 2004.

This new mechanism aims to reinforce efforts by Partner countries to initiate and carry forward reform and restructuring of defence institutions to meet domestic needs as well as international commitments. It defines common objectives for Partnership work in this area, encourages exchange of relevant experience, and helps tailor and focus bilateral defence and security assistance programmes.

The Action Plan's objectives include: effective and transparent arrangements for the democratic control of defence activities; civilian participation in developing defence and security policy; effective and transparent legislative and judicial oversight of the defence sector; enhanced assessment of security risks and national defence requirements, matched with developing and maintaining affordable and interoperable capabilities; optimising the management of defence ministries and other agencies which have associated force structures; compliance with international norms and practices in the defence sector, including export controls; effective and transparent financial, planning and resource allocation procedures in the defence area; effective management of defence spending as well as of the socio-economic consequences of defence restructuring; effective and transparent personnel structures and practices in the defence forces; and effective international cooperation and good neighbourly relations in defence and security matters.

Implementation of the Action Plan will make maximum use of existing EAPC and PfP tools and mechanisms. The PARP mechanism will serve as a key instrument for implementing the Action Plan's objectives and it will be adapted to fulfil this role. Effective implementation necessitates developing common understanding of standards and concepts related to defence, defence management and defence reform. Achieving this "conceptual" interoperability requires a major investment in education and enhanced efforts to share relevant knowledge and experience among Allies and Partners.

Case study: Ukraine

The cooperation programme NATO has developed with Ukraine in the area of defence reform is more extensive than with any other Partner country. It demonstrates the wide range of cooperative activities available to Partner countries in this area.

When Ukraine declared independence in 1991, it inherited parts of the military structure and armed forces of the former Soviet Union. Ukraine has asked for NATO's support to help transform its Cold War inheritance into a smaller, modern and more efficient force, capable of meeting the new security needs of the country, as well as supporting Ukraine's chosen role as an active contributor to European stability and security. Priorities for NATO in this endeavour are to strengthen the democratic and civilian control of

Ukraine's armed forces and to improve their interoperability with NATO forces.

After joining the Partnership for Peace in 1994, increasing contacts and cooperation with NATO allowed Ukraine to draw extensively on advice and practical assistance. Cooperation was intensified with the signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine in 1997. A year later, a Joint Working Group on Defence Reform was established to facilitate consultation and practical cooperation on defence and security sector reform issues. And in April 1999, a NATO Liaison Office was established in Kyiv to support these defence reform efforts.

Participation in the Partnership for Peace benefits Ukraine's reform efforts and its drive to improve interoperability. The PARP mechanism is particularly important in that it has helped identify key requirements for defence-planning purposes. A crucial element has been the technical assistance and advice provided for the conduct of a defence review, which has helped Ukraine draw up a roadmap for defence reform. Such a defence review is a complex, objective analytical process, which aims to identify a country's defence requirements based on its national security policy; seeks to balance these requirements against available resources; and produces proposals for forces and capabilities to provide best value for the taxpayer's money. The outcome of a review provides the conceptual framework for further

> NATO's Chairman of the Military Committee (centre) visits Kyiv, Ukraine, in February 2004, to review progress in military-to-military cooperation and defence reform.



reform which, by definition, will take a sustained effort over a longer period.

Other key aspects of cooperation include helping Ukraine to develop a new security concept and military doctrine, more effective and transparent defence budgeting and planning, and strengthened civil-military relations, including increasing the role of civilians in Ukrainian defence structures. Ukraine's restructuring and transformation efforts are also being supported through structured advice on military downsizing and conversion and professionalising the armed forces, and on establishing rapid reaction forces. Activities are not limited to the armed forces or the defence ministry, but also cover support for the Ukrainian border guards and troops attached to the interior ministry.

Training and education are key elements of the defence transformation process. Senior Ukrainian officers regularly participate in courses open to Partner countries at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, and the NATO School at Oberammergau, Germany. Military personnel also gain hands-on experience of working with forces from NATO countries and other Partners through a wide range of activities and military exercises.

To help Ukraine manage the consequences of defence reform, NATO has financed and implemented language and management courses in cooperation with Ukraine's National Coordination Centre, which is in charge of social adaptation of redundant military servicemen. Moreover, assistance from individual Allies for demilitarisation projects is being channelled through the PFP Trust Fund mechanism (see p. 28).

Managing the consequences of defence reform

In launching defence reforms, it is essential that adequate steps are taken at the outset to manage their consequences and mitigate any negative side-effects. Military personnel who lose their jobs need to be assisted to reintegrate into civilian life. The closure of military bases can impact severely on local communities and economies, so plans for the

redevelopment of the sites are needed. Stockpiles of redundant or obsolete weapons and munitions pose serious security risks and environmental hazards, and have to be disposed of safely.

NATO has launched a number of initiatives to provide advice and expertise to Partner countries in these areas. While it can only provide limited funding for projects and programmes, it seeks to help secure additional funding by working and sharing information with other international institutions and non-governmental organisations, as well as with individual countries willing to offer bilateral assistance.

Retraining soldiers

Over five million personnel have been released from the armed forces of Partner countries since the end of the Cold War. There is an urgent need to provide possibilities for retraining and for alternative employment. In early 2000, NATO offered to play a role in assisting Partner countries in their efforts to retrain military personnel and facilitate their reintegration into civilian life.

A NATO team of experts was put together to provide national authorities with advice, analysis and guidelines on personnel retraining policies and programmes. Activities supported include counselling for soon-to-be-released military personnel on how to find a job or start a business, language training, and the establishment of retraining centres.

In Southeast Europe, where an expected 3,000 military sites and bases will be closed and an estimated 175,000 people will lose their jobs by 2010, there is considerable interest in such programmes. Romania and Bulgaria – still Partner countries at the time – became the first countries to benefit from this type of assistance; by 2004, some 20,000 officers in each country had participated in retraining programmes. Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia and Montenegro are exploring possibilities for cooperation with NATO in this area. Moreover, NATO supports retraining initiatives in Russia and Ukraine.



Supporting discharged personnel

Operational since March 2002, the NATO-Russia Centre for the resettlement of discharged military personnel is helping tackle the social aspects of downsizing in the Russian military by providing released military personnel throughout Russia with a focal point of retraining and reintegration assistance. Based in Moscow, the Centre expanded its activities into the regions in 2003, establishing local offices in Yaroslavl, St. Petersburg, Chita, Perm, Kaliningrad and Rostov on Don.

The Centre has set up web sites to provide practical information on retraining and employment possibilities as well as advice on how to start a small business. It also offers direct training courses, trains resettlement specialists, and organises conferences to exchange information on these issues. Already in its first 18 months of operation, it had trained 210 trainers who are now engaged in resettlement activities and had initiated training of some 200 students in areas such as computer skills, management and accounting.

Converting military bases

Under a NATO initiative for the conversion of military sites in Southeast Europe, a NATO expert team is providing advice and recommendations to help national authorities find productive new uses for military bases that are to be converted to civilian use. The initiative also seeks to promote regional cooperation and the sharing of information among the participating countries, which include several Partners and two new NATO members: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

Several pilot projects are helping develop a strategic approach to military base closures and site redevelopment. Key priorities are to ensure environmental clean-up and to promote job creation and the diversification of local economies in areas where the military bases are the only major employer. Some bases are being converted for use as, for example, residential developments, educational establishments, healthcare centres, prisons, and parks or wildlife preservation areas.

Destroying mines, munitions and weapons

PfP Trust Funds (see box p.28) assist Partner countries in the safe destruction of stockpiles of surplus anti-personnel mines, munitions and small arms and light weapons. Tailor-made projects are developed with individual countries to ensure that the destruction process is safe, environmentally friendly and in line with international standards. Where possible, projects aim to use local resources and facilities in order to reduce operating costs as well as to train local people in the destruction process, helping create jobs and teach new skills.

By early 2005, thanks to such projects, some 1.6 million anti-personnel mines had been successfully destroyed in Albania; 12,000 landmines and 7,000 tonnes of surplus munitions and rocket fuel had been disposed of in Moldova; 400,000 anti-personnel mines had been eliminated in Ukraine; 1,200 landmines had been destroyed in Tajikistan; and over 300 missiles had been dismantled in Georgia. Further demilitarisation projects are planned for Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE TRUST FUNDS

The PFP Trust Fund policy was originally established in September 2000 as a mechanism to assist Partner countries in the safe destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. In this way, it intended to support signatory countries in implementing the Ottawa convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction.

Building on the success of several mine-destruction projects, the scope of the Fund has been extended to include other demilitarisation projects aimed at destroying munitions and small arms and light weapons. More recently, use of the Fund has been broadened to support Partner countries in managing the consequences of defence reform through initiatives such as retraining and the conversion of military bases. Trust Funds can also be established in favour of Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

Under the Fund, NATO members work with individual Partner countries to identify and implement specific projects. In each case, a NATO or Partner country takes the lead in sponsoring and developing the project proposal, and in identifying potential contributors. The Partner country that benefits directly from the project is expected to take an active part in this work and to provide maximum support to the project within its means. NATO experts provide advice and guidance.

Funding is provided by NATO member and Partner countries on a voluntary basis. Contributions may also include equipment or contributions in kind. Often, the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency, based in Luxembourg, serves as the executing agency for projects and is responsible for the implementation of technical and financial aspects.

Further information: www.nato.int/pfp/trust-fund.htm



Destroying old missiles

Some 300 old anti-aircraft missiles have been safely destroyed in Georgia, thanks to a PFP Trust Fund project completed in early 2005. Missiles stored at the Ponichala and Chaladid bases were dismantled, the warheads removed and then transported to another location to be exploded in a controlled manner.

The project significantly increased security in the areas where the missiles were stored and also prevented environmental contamination that these weapons could otherwise have caused.

Disaster-preparedness and response

Disasters, man-made or natural, can happen anytime and any country could be faced with having to deal with the consequences of a catastrophe. Major civil emergencies also pose potential risks to security and stability. While every country is responsible for dealing with emergencies that occur on its territory and taking care of victims, the magnitude and duration of a disaster situation may be beyond the capacity of the affected country and its repercussions may extend far beyond its national borders. International cooperation to address emergency situations and to strengthen response capabilities is therefore essential.

Cooperation with regard to disaster-preparedness and response, referred to in NATO as “civil emergency planning”, has been taking place between NATO countries for years. It was extended to include Partner countries in the 1990s and makes up the largest non-military component of Partnership for Peace activities. Based on a Russian proposal, a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) was established in 1998 to coordinate responses among EAPC countries to disasters occurring in the Euro-Atlantic area.



> Red Crescent workers participate in a Partnership for Peace exercise.

Promoting effective coordination

Effective responses to disasters call for the coordination of transport facilities, medical resources, communications, disaster-response capabilities and other civil resources. All countries are responsible for ensuring that plans are in place at the national level for dealing with emergencies. However, given the potential cross-border character of some disasters and the need to be able to respond effectively to calls for international assistance, cooperation and planning at the international level is indispensable.

Cooperation between NATO and Partner countries in civil emergency planning includes activities such as seminars, workshops, exercises and training courses, which bring together civil and military personnel from different levels of local, regional and national governments. Other international organisations, such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union, are also important participants, as are non-governmental relief organisations.

Thanks to the development of contingency plans, appropriate procedures and the necessary equipment, as well as common training and exercises, NATO and Partner countries have been able to coordinate assistance effectively, through the EADRCC, in response to several natural disasters. These include floods in Albania, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine; earthquakes in Turkey; forest fires in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Portugal; and extreme weather in Moldova and Ukraine.



Flood assistance

Western Ukraine has experienced 13 major floods during the last century. NATO and Partner countries assisted Ukraine after severe floods in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

Since 1997, under a memorandum of understanding on civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, a major programme of cooperation in this area has brought direct practical benefits for Ukraine. A key focus has been to help Ukraine, whose western parts are prone to heavy flooding, to prepare better for such emergencies and to manage their consequences more effectively. PfP exercises, including one held in Ukraine's Trans-Carpathia region in September 2000, help test disaster-relief procedures such as conducting air reconnaissance, evacuating victims and deploying water purification equipment. Moreover, a pilot project, concluded in 2001, brought together more than 40 flood and emergency experts from twelve different countries to develop practical recommendations for an effective flood-warning and response system for the Tisza River catchment area.

EURO-ATLANTIC DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION CENTRE

In June 1998, a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) was established at NATO headquarters, based on a proposal made by Russia. The Centre, which is operational on a 24-hour basis, acts as a focal point for information-sharing and coordinates responses among NATO and Partner countries to disasters in the Euro-Atlantic area. It also organises major civil emergency exercises, which practise responses to simulated natural and man-made disaster situations as well as consequence management actions following a terrorist act involving chemical, biological or radiological agents.

The Centre works closely with international agencies that play a leading role in responding to international disasters and in consequence management – the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – and other organisations.

Countries are encouraged to develop bilateral or multilateral arrangements to address issues such as visa regulations, border-crossing arrangements, transit agreements, customs clearance and status of personnel. Such measures avoid bureaucratic delays in the deployment of relief items and teams to an actual disaster location. Arrangements have also been made for a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Unit, which is made up of a mix of national elements that countries are prepared to make available at short notice when a disaster strikes.

Further information: www.nato.int/leadrccl/home.htm

Refugee relief

While originally established to deal with natural and technological disasters, the EADRCC was first called upon to help organise a relief effort for refugees, when international concern over the emerging humanitarian crisis in and around Kosovo mounted during 1998. By year end, open conflict between Serbian military and police forces and Kosovar Albanian forces had left many ethnic Albanians dead and forced more than 300,000 from their homes.

The EADRCC became involved immediately upon its creation in early June 1998, when the UNHCR asked for help to transport 165 tonnes of urgently needed relief items to refugees in Albania. Over the next few months, as the crisis evolved, an effective basis for cooperation between the EADRCC and UNHCR was established. EADRCC personnel also made several trips to the region to develop a better understanding of the situation. This groundwork made it possible to intensify and broaden involvement in the relief effort, when the crisis escalated in spring 1999 with the launch of Allied air strikes and the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces.

The Centre served as a focal point for information-sharing among EAPC countries and helped coordinate responses to requests for assistance. Relief items such as medical supplies and equipment, telecommunications equipment, shoes and clothing, and tents for over 20,000 people were dispatched. The EADRCC also channelled aid to the region from non-Partner countries such as Israel, which provided a fully staffed and equipped field hospital, and the United Arab Emirates, which helped repair Kukes airfield in north-eastern Albania.

> The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre supported refugee relief operations during the Kosovo crisis.



Aircraft, helicopters, cargo-handling teams and logistical advice were provided to help with the transport and distribution of aid. The EADRCC also played a significant role in the coordination of priority humanitarian flights by bringing together key actors in the air-traffic management field to develop appropriate procedures and by arranging for air-traffic experts to be assigned to the UN Air Coordination Cell.

The EADRCC acted in addition as an interlocutor with other NATO and non-NATO bodies, on behalf of the two countries most affected by the crisis, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* by articulating and explaining specific concerns. One such issue was the urgent need to establish mechanisms allowing evacuation to third countries, to act as a humanitarian safety valve, as the refugee crisis intensified.

Preparing for terrorist attacks

The events of 11 September 2001 brought home the urgency of cooperation in preparing for possible terrorist attacks on civilian populations using chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) weapons. The Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (see p. 15) encourages the sharing of related information and participation in civil emergency planning to assess risks and reduce the vulnerability of civilian populations to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

A Civil Emergency Planning Action Plan has been agreed to assist national authorities in improving their civil preparedness for possible terrorist attacks with CBRN weapons. NATO and its Partner countries have prepared and are continuously updating an inventory of national capabilities that would be available in the event of such an attack. These involve everything from medical assistance to radiological detection, to identification laboratories, to aero-medical evacuation capabilities. Stockpiles are being developed of the more critical items that might be needed. Work on improving border-crossing procedures aims to ensure assistance can arrive as quickly as possible in an emergency.

Minimum standards are being developed for training, planning and equipment. Field exercises are organised regularly in the framework of the Partnership for Peace to ensure that countries work together as effectively as possible in responding to a terrorist attack and managing its consequences. Specifically, this involves improving the interoperability of the different teams that would deal with medical and first aid issues and with decontamination and clean-up. Another key issue being examined is how best to handle public information in such stressful emergency situations.



“Dirty bomb” exercise

An exercise simulating an international response to a terrorist attack using a “dirty bomb” (a radiological dispersal device) was held in October 2003 in Pitești, Romania (a Partner country at the time). Some 1,300 Romanian and 350 international personnel took part.

Security, science and the environment

Two distinct NATO programmes bring together scientists and experts from NATO and Partner countries on a regular basis to work on problems of common concern. Collaboration is a tradition among scientists and a requirement for scientific progress. The networks created also fulfil a political goal of building understanding and confidence between communities from different cultures and traditions.

The Security Through Science programme of the NATO Science Committee aims to contribute to security, stability and solidarity among countries by applying science to problem solving. It supports collaboration, networking and capacity-building among working scientists in NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. The Security Through Science programme concentrates its support for collaboration on research topics related to defence against terrorism or countering other threats to security. Another objective is to promote the sharing and transfer of technology to help Partner countries address their particular priorities.

The programme of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) deals with problems of the environment and society by bringing together national agencies to collaborate on short and long-term studies in these areas. It provides a unique forum for sharing knowledge and experience on technical, scientific and policy aspects of social and environmental matters among NATO and Partner countries, in both the civilian and military sectors. A number of key security-related objectives guide its work.

Applying science to security

Defence against terrorism

The fight against terrorism has become a key priority for Allies and Partners alike. NATO is supporting scientific research into developing effective methods to detect chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons or agents, and improving physical protection against them. Research is also being promoted into improved possibilities for the safe destruction of such weapons, for decontamination, and for medical responses including chemical and vaccine technologies.

Workshops and seminars are being organised to bring together scientists to look at issues such as reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure (including energy, communications, transportation and life-support systems); protecting against eco-terrorism and cyber-terrorism; improving border security; combating illegal trafficking; and developing more effective means for explosives detection.

Wider issues – such as understanding the roots of terrorism, the social and psychological consequences of terrorism, and how to strengthen the resilience of populations against the terrorist threat – are also being examined with a view to developing policy recommendations.

Countering other threats to security

While less obviously dangerous, other sources of potential threats to security and stability include the scarcity of non-renewable resources and environmental degradation – such as desertification, land erosion or pollution of common waterways – which can lead to regional or cross-border disputes. Solving such problems often requires not only scientific know-how but also multilateral action. To meet this need, NATO supports projects and studies that promote the application of scientific best practice and involve the key countries concerned.

The world would also be a safer place if one were able to forecast natural disasters, mitigate their effects or better still prevent them. This is a key area of interest for many Partners. NATO has conducted a number of projects aimed at reducing the impact of major earthquakes in terms of loss of life, material damage, and economic and social disruption. Such projects look into ways of increasing the earthquake resistance of buildings, for example, or involve collecting data on the seismological and geological characteristics of a region to develop seismic hazard maps, which help urban planners decide what type of building can be built where. Projects aimed at developing more efficient early warning and flood management systems are also being promoted.

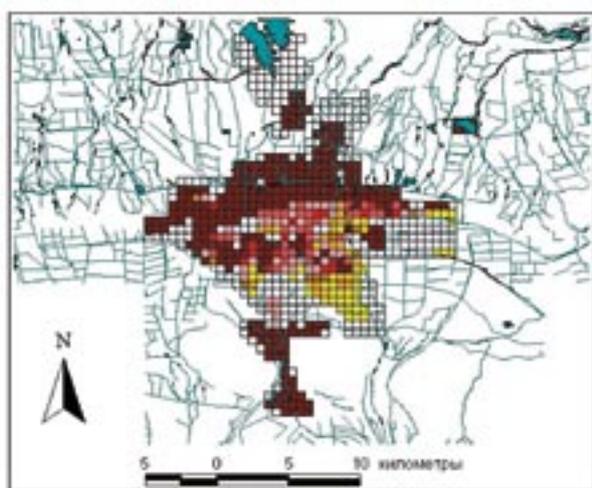
The reliance of modern society on the provision of safe food or on secure and reliable information means that their availability must be assured. These are also key areas for further study in the effort to make society more secure.

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

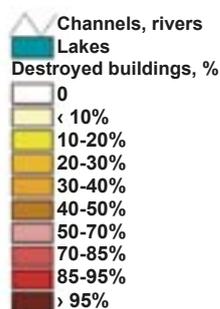
The cross-border character of environmental issues has led the international community to take an active role in initiating environmental projects not only to further social and economic development, but also to promote security and stability. Such projects are a key focus under the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) programme and an important part of the Security Through Science programme.

A significant step towards promoting the link between environmental issues and security and stability was taken in 2002 with the launch of a joint Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The initiative focuses on vulnerable regions such as the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

As the Security Through Science and CCMS programmes are involved in promoting security through scientific and environmental cooperation with Partner countries in these regions, they are now associated with ENVSEC. Activities are coordinated, information shared and results disseminated to the relevant authorities in the regions, which will lead to a much greater impact of activities.



Seismic Damage for all types of residential buildings in Bishkek



Earthquake assistance

Earthquakes pose a significant threat in highly populated areas of Central Asia. In a NATO-sponsored project, Turkish earthquake scientists are helping counterparts

from Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to establish risk maps for the capitals, Tashkent and Bishkek. These maps will serve as decision tools for urban planning and strengthening of existing buildings.

Connecting people

Scientists rely on access to information to keep up with the latest developments and research. However, not all scientific and academic communities have yet been able to benefit from the arrival of the information age or to exploit the potential of the internet. Moreover, the absence of a monopoly on information is often said to be a prerequisite for democracy and civil society to flourish.

To help remedy this situation, NATO's civil science programme has provided a number of research and educational institutions in Partner countries with the necessary networking infrastructure to access the internet.

Metropolitan networks have been set up to improve internet access for academic communities in eastern regions of Russia and in Ukraine as well as national networks in Moldova, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.* The largest and most ambitious NATO-sponsored project in this area is the Virtual Silk Highway project, which provides satellite-based internet access for the academic and scientific communities in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.



Virtual Silk Highway

The Virtual Silk Highway project was launched in October 2001 (its name refers to the Great Silk Road which

used to link Europe to the Far East, promoting the exchange of goods and of knowledge and ideas). The project provides internet access for the academic and scientific communities of eight Partner countries in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – and was extended to Afghanistan in 2004.

Cost-effective, state-of-the-art satellite technology now connects scientists and academics in the participating countries to the internet via a common satellite beam. The NATO grant has financed satellite bandwidth and the installation of ten satellite dishes. Other project sponsors are contributing in kind. With an investment of 3.5 million US dollars over four years, this is the largest project ever to have been sponsored by NATO's civil science programme.

A true Euro-Atlantic security culture

The Alliance's evolving Partnership approach has been enormously successful in helping to alter the strategic environment in the Euro-Atlantic area. By promoting political dialogue and military interoperability, Partnership is helping create a true Euro-Atlantic security culture – a strong determination to work together in tackling critical security challenges within and beyond the Euro-Atlantic community of nations.

Thanks to practical cooperation focused on preparing the military forces of Allies and Partners to work together, soldiers from NATO and Partner countries are serving shoulder-to-shoulder in the Balkans and in Afghanistan. And Partnership is providing the framework for Allies and Partners to respond together to the threat of terrorism and to address key issues such as proliferation.

By stimulating and supporting defence reform in many Partner countries, Partnership is also contributing to democratic transformation. It is helping to build more modern, effective and democratically responsible armed forces and other defence institutions. Moreover, it is assisting countries to manage the social and material consequences of such reforms.

Direct benefits to citizens of NATO member and Partner countries alike are also being generated by practical cooperation in a wide range of other areas, including disaster-preparedness and scientific and environmental cooperation.

The Partnership has already helped prepare ten countries for the responsibilities of NATO membership, and NATO's door remains open to new members. But Partnership also provides a unique framework for Western European non-aligned countries, which are not seeking membership, to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security without compromising the principles of their foreign and security policies.

The challenges to Euro-Atlantic security are changing. The evolving threats, including terrorism and failed states, have domestic and external sources and a transnational nature. While threats to stability remain in the strategically important region of the Balkans, events in Afghanistan have demonstrated that new threats to our common security come from the periphery of the Euro-Atlantic area. In this environment, international stability and security will increasingly depend on domestic reform on the one hand, and wide international cooperation on the other. Effective security cooperation is impossible without fundamentally democratic basic doctrines and institutions. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership has a key role to play in both respects.

As Allies and Partners continue to grow together, they will increase their ability to meet shared challenges with common responses, building security for future generations based on understanding and cooperation.



“As we greet this ten-year mark, we can look back at a record of success. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership has been a catalyst of domestic transformation and of international security cooperation on a historically unprecedented scale. NATO has always been at the core of this endeavour. Partnership has also been moving towards the core of NATO’s business.

It has served Allies. It has served Partners.

It has served democracy and peace.”

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer marks the 10th anniversary of the Partnership for Peace in an address to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council on 14 January 2004.



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