Our role, as NATO’s International Military Staff, is to provide the best possible strategic military advice and staff support for the Military Committee.

In upholding a reputation for excellence, our vision is that we will be widely respected as a highly motivated, properly trained and empowered team that is well-led and cared for at all levels and which always displays intellectual agility, decisiveness and pride.

The IMS team embraces the principles and values enshrined in ‘People first, Mission always.’ Our people work with professionalism, integrity and commitment. They also promote continuous learning and the need for resilience, initiative and open communication in an environment in which each individual is respected and that is totally free from discrimination and prejudice.

Following the Heads of State and Government direction at the Chicago Summit, a review of the IMS was initiated. While major structural and organizational changes are not likely, it will be important that the IMS is reconfigured and its ‘ways of working’ are adapted to reflect Future NATO and the move to the new NATO HQ.

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www.nato.int/im
**The International Military Staff (IMS)**

The IMS is the executive body of the Military Committee (MC), NATO’s senior military authority. It is responsible for preparing assessments and studies on NATO military issues identifying areas of strategic and operational relevance and proposing courses of action. It also ensures that NATO decisions and policies on military matters are implemented by the appropriate NATO military bodies.

The IMS’s work enables NATO’s Military Representatives to deal with issues rapidly and effectively, ensuring that the MC provides the North Atlantic Council (NAC) with consensus-based advice on all military aspects of policy, operations, and transformation within the Alliance.

The IMS is an independent body within NATO that comprises approximately 500 dedicated military and civilian personnel from NATO’s member states, working in an international capacity for the common interest of the Alliance, rather than on behalf of their country of origin.

The strength of the IMS lies in exchanging information and views with the staffs of the Military Representatives, the civilian International Staff (IS), the Strategic Commanders, multinational Working Groups, and NATO Agencies, ensuring effective and efficient staff work.

**The Director General of the International Military Staff (DGIMS)**

The IMS is led by the DGIMS, a General/Flag officer, selected by the NATO Chiefs of Defence from candidates nominated by Member Nations. The DGIMS is responsible for the coordination between the decision-making bodies of the Alliance, the two Strategic Commanders, national military delegations from NATO and Partner countries working in Brussels, and the civilian International Staff, that support the Secretary General and the NAC, in order for the IMS to provide the best possible policy advice to the MC.

The DGIMS reports to the Chairman of the MC (CMC), takes part in all IMS meetings (both in Chiefs of Defence format and the meetings in Permanent Session), also attending the NATO and senior political meetings, and holds regular meetings with the Directors of the six IMS functional areas in order to observe the progress, provide direction, and assign new tasks and projects.

The current DGIMS is Air Marshall Sir Christopher Harper, UK Air Force.

Air Marshall Sir Christopher Harper KBE MA CCMI RAF joined the RAF in 1976. His early tours saw him flying the Jaguar and the CF-18 in the UK and Germany. He went on to command No 41(F) Squadron and RAF Cottesmore. Sir Chris was mentioned in dispatches for his personal involvement in air operations over Iraq in 2001 and was appointed a CB in 2002. More recently, Sir Chris has served as Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group; the Deputy Commanding Officer of NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum, and as the UK’s Military Representative to NATO and the EU. He was appointed a KBE in 2011 and, following an election by NATO’s Chiefs of Defence Staff, took up the appointment of Director General of the NATO International Military Staff in July 2013.

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper addressing his staff at the Town Hall Meeting.

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**The Plans & Policy (P&P) Division**

The Plans & Policy (P&P) Division is involved in all policy and planning matters such as Alliance defence policy and strategic planning. This division supports and gives military advice to the DGIMS and the Chairman of the MC essentially on three areas: Strategic Policy and Concept; Nuclear Deterrence and Chemical, Biological; Radiological and Nuclear Defence Policy; Defence and Force Planning.

The Cooperation & Regional Security (C&RS) Division develops military Cooperative Security policy and is the main point of contact for NATO’s military cooperation with Partners from the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and with Partners across the globe. Additionally, C&RS is the main military contact with all non-NATO member states who conduct operations with the Alliance.

**The Logistics & Resources (L&R) Division**

Develops and defines policies and principles, plans and concepts on all matters concerning logistics, medical, armaments, research and development, and civil emergency planning. In addition, the Division is the focal point for NATO’s military manpower, financial resources and security investment issues.

The NATO Headquarters C3 Staff (NHQCS) supports development of policy standards and provides analysis and advice to NATO in the Consultation Command and Control (C3) domain. It is an integrated staff (IS/IMS) and reports to both DGIMS and Assistant Secretary General/ Defence Investment (ASG/DI) while advising the NAC through the C3 Board and the MC on C3. The NHQCS also works closely with the Assistant Secretary General/ Emerging Security Challenges (ASG/ESC) in support of the Alliance in all Cyber defence matters and provides advice to NATO concerning data protection. Additionally, the NHQCS supports the C3 Capability Area Manager in the coordination of C3 Capabilities.

**The NATO HQ Situation Centre**

The NATO HQ Situation Centre (SITCEN) serves as the focal point within the Alliance for the receipt, exchange and dissemination of information. It monitors political, military and economic matters of interest to NATO and partner countries and partner countries on a 24-hour basis. In addition to providing for the rapid expansion of consultation during periods of tension and crisis, this division also provides facilities for the rapid expansion of consultation during periods of tension and crisis.