

Key NATO & Allied Exercises

NATO Allies and Partners conduct [exercises](#) to test procedures and tactics, identify best practices and areas for improvement. Through exercises, forces also practice working together effectively, swiftly and collectively.

NATO exercises vary in scope, duration and form. They range from live exercises involving thousands of troops to computer-assisted exercises that take place in a classroom. While the majority of NATO's exercises are military, the Alliance organises civilian and political training events as well. In addition to NATO exercises, Allies also train together in multi-national exercises.

Exercises are part of NATO's work to enhance the readiness and flexibility of its forces. They raise the ability of Allied troops to respond to threats from any direction.

Planning and scope

Military exercises are planned by NATO's two strategic headquarters – Allied Command Operations (at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium) and Allied Command Transformation (Norfolk, Virginia, USA).

NATO has been conducting military exercises since 1951. Since 1994, members of the Partnership for Peace initiative are invited to participate in NATO peacekeeping exercises. All partner countries are able to participate in NATO exercises since 2010, on a regular basis. Everything that the Alliance does is defensive, proportionate, and in line with its international obligations.

Cost of NATO exercises

Allies that contribute troops and equipment pay for the resulting costs themselves. Costs attributed to NATO are covered by the NATO common budget.

Exercises in 2015

In total, around 280 NATO and Allied exercises are planned for this year. The largest one – Trident Juncture 2015 – will take place in October and November in Italy, Spain and Portugal. It includes air, land, sea and Special Forces. Around 36,000 troops from more than 30 nations will participate.

Over a hundred exercises have been held in 2015 in the Eastern part of the Alliance as part of NATO's Assurance measures. The majority of NATO exercises, including Trident Juncture 2015, also focus on adaptation, ensuring forces are able to react swiftly and decisively to sudden crises, from any direction.

Transparency

NATO seeks transparency and predictability, not confrontation. NATO exercises are based on fictitious scenarios and are not directed against any country. NATO military exercises are open to international observers.

As part of this commitment to transparency, NATO exercises are announced months in advance and published on the NATO website <http://aco.nato.int/schedule.aspx>



Key NATO and Allied Multinational exercises in 2015

INFORMATION	DATE	LOCATION
<p>Dragoon Ride US-led exercise involving transfer of military equipment and thousands of personnel through Eastern Allies. The 1,900-km road march demonstrated NATO's ability to move military forces quickly across Allied borders. Highlighted international military cooperation and US commitments to NATO Allies.</p>	20 March – 1 April	Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
<p>Joint Warrior Major naval exercise led by the United Kingdom. Tested demining, defence against air attacks and maritime interdiction. NATO participated with 14 ships alongside 40 other warships and submarines and 70 aircraft. With 13,000 troops from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the US.</p>	11-23 April	The North Atlantic
<p>Dynamic Mongoose Anti-submarine warfare exercise. More than 5,000 troops from Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the US participated with submarines and surface ships.</p>	4-15 May	Off the coast of Norway and the North Sea
<p>Steadfast Javelin The biggest land exercise in the Baltic region this year. More than 13,000 troops practiced ground and air operations. Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Poland, the Netherlands, the UK and the US participated.</p>	4-15 May	Estonia
<p>Arctic Challenge A multinational fighter jet exercise led by Norway. <i>Nearly a hundred jets from nine nations</i> trained to tackle ground and airborne targets, combatting simulated anti-air artillery and mid-air refueling.</p>	25 May – 5 June	Norway, Finland, Sweden
<p>BALTOPS 2015 The biggest ever Allied naval exercise in the Baltic Sea. Trained marine interdiction, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, anti-air warfare, amphibious landing. Around 5,600 troops took part from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the UK.</p>	5 – 20 June	Baltic Sea and the coast of Poland
<p>Sabre Strike 15 Multinational land exercise focussed on interoperability between NATO and Partners and on preparing troops for participation in the NATO Response Force. With participation of 6,000 troops from <i>Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, United Kingdom, the United States.</i></p>	8 – 19 June	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
<p>Noble Jump NATO-led. First training deployment for NATO's new "Spearhead" force, the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). With participation of 2,100 troops from the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland.</p>	10 – 21 June	Poland
<p>Trident Joust 15 NATO-led. A NATO Response Force exercise on command and control, aimed to train capability to plan and execute operations. Around 1,500 troops were involved.</p>	17-28 June	Bulgaria, Italy, Romania
<p>Agile Spirit 2015 Multinational land exercise in Georgia with a scenario on peacekeeping operations. Over 800 troops from Bulgaria, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Ukraine and the US participated.</p>	8 – 22 July	Georgia
<p>Trident Juncture 2015 – Jointex 2015 NATO's biggest exercise in a decade. More than 30 countries and 36,000 troops will participate. Exercise includes air, land, sea and special operation forces. It will test the Spearhead Force (VJTF) and NATO's ability to work with partner countries and organisations. The Canadian exercise JOINTEX 2015 has been integrated as well.</p>	21 October – 6 November	Italy, Portugal, Spain
<p>Cyber Coalition 2015 NATO's annual cyber defence exercise tests the Alliance's ability to defend its networks from cyber-attacks. The exercise will involve hundreds of technical, government and cyber experts operating from dozens of locations across Europe.</p>	16-20 November	Estonia

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