

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.

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.

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.

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 2016

In total, around 150 NATO and Allied exercises are planned for this year. The largest one – Exercise Anakonda 2016 – is a Polish-led exercise and will take place in June in Poland. It includes air and land forces. Around 25,000 troops from more than 16 nations will participate.

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://shape.nato.int/exercises>



Key NATO and Allied Multinational exercises in 2016

INFORMATION	DATE	LOCATION
<p>DYNAMIC MANTA NATO exercise testing anti-submarine warfare capabilities. Dynamic Manta involved more than 5,000 sailors from 8 NATO nations, including France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1T489zY</p>	22 February - 04 March	Ionian Sea
<p>COLD RESPONSE Multinational exercise showcasing Allies' ability to conduct operations in extreme weather conditions. This exercise included land, maritime and air assets, with more than 15,000 troops from 12 NATO nations and Finland and Sweden. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1Ona2lF</p>	17-28 March	Norway
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP ALERT 16 The first in a series of four exercises testing the core elements of NATO's Response Force. Brilliant Jump Alert tested the activation process of NATO's Spearhead force, the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The exercise involved numerous military Headquarters and units in Albania, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Find out more: http://bit.ly/27d4ypk</p>	1-10 April	Spain, Poland, UK, Albania
<p>STEADFAST ALLIANCE Trained the Alliance's entire Ballistic Missile Defence structure, including planning and decision-making processes at all levels. 7 NATO nations participated: Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom, Spain, and Turkey.</p>	18 - 29 April	Multiple locations
<p>FLAMING SWORD A multinational exercise testing special operations forces. This exercise involved forces from NATO nations and partners, including: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.</p>	1-20 May	Lithuania, Latvia
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP DEPLOY 16 This exercise will train NATO's Very High Joint Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) to quickly deploy where needed. It will test the deployment of the VJTF's land elements, from their home location in Spain to the Zagan Military Training Area in Poland. 5,000 troops are expected to participate.</p>	17-26 May	Poland
<p>SABRE STRIKE Multinational land exercise focused on interoperability between NATO and partners. Participating NATO nations include Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, United States, and the United Kingdom. Last year's exercise included more than 6,000 troops.</p>	02-14 June	Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
<p>BALTOPS 16 An annual multinational exercise focused on interoperability with regional partner nations in the maritime, air, and land domains. Participating NATO nations include Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Poland. Two partner nations, Finland and Sweden, will also participate. Last year's exercise involved 5,600 troops.</p>	03 - 26 June	Baltic Sea
<p>ANAKONDA The largest Allied exercise this year. This Polish-led exercise will involve around 25,000 troops, including air and land forces. 16 Allies will participate.</p>	7-17 June	Poland
<p>DYNAMIC MONGOOSE Annual NATO-led anti-submarine warfare exercise. Last year's exercise involved more than 5,000 troops from NATO nations and partners.</p>	20 June - 01 July	North Sea

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