

Key NATO and Allied exercises in 2018

NATO Allies and partners conduct exercises to test procedures and tactics, develop best practices and identify areas for improvement. Through exercises, forces practice working together effectively, swiftly and collectively. Exercises raise the ability of our military forces 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. In addition to military exercises, the Alliance organises civilian and political training events as well. Allies also train together in multinational exercises.

NATO and Allied exercises in numbers

In total, 106 NATO exercises are planned for 2018. Allies will lead around 180 national and multinational exercises this year. In 2017, NATO conducted 108 exercises and Allies held 162 national and multinational exercises.

The exercises led by NATO and Allies this year include around 45 exercises with a primary focus on the land domain, 12 exercises mainly in the air domain, and 15 exercises focused mainly on maritime operations. Others train cyber defence, crisis response decision-making or specific capabilities.

More than 40 NATO and Allied exercises in 2018 will focus on tackling challenges from the South. Defending Allies in the eastern part of NATO is the focus of another 30 exercises. Nine NATO and Allied exercises will have a special focus on the North.

Transparency

Many NATO exercises are open to partners beyond the Alliance. This highlights the defensive and transparent nature of our training activities.

NATO exercises are not directed against any country. They are based on fictitious scenarios with fictitious adversaries.

The Alliance respects all its international obligations with regard to military exercises. Under the OSCE Vienna Document, exercises must be notified by their host nations to OSCE member states 42 days in advance if exceeding 9,000 troops. Observation is required starting at 13,000 troops. In line with these requirements, NATO military exercises are open to international observers. International organisations, including the European Union, are also invited to observe or participate in NATO exercises.

As part of this commitment to transparency, NATO exercises are announced months in advance and published at: <http://www.shape.nato.int/exercises>.



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NAME AND SCENARIO	ORGANIZING NATO COMMAND	DATE	LOCATION
<p>DYNAMIC MANTA Annual NATO exercise to train submarine warfare, antisubmarine warfare (ASW) for submarines, ASW surface units and maritime patrol aircraft.</p>	Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), Northwood, United Kingdom	5 – 16 March	Mediterranean Sea
<p>SIIL 18 (HEDGEHOG 18) Estonian national land exercise, with participation from 10 Allies and 5 partners with upwards of 10,000 troops involved.</p>	National exercise	3 – 14 May	Estonia
<p>STEADFAST FLOW NATO exercise for military movement operators.</p>	Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium	14 – 20 May	Turkey
<p>RAMSTEIN ALTERNATE Up to 200 personnel from the Combined Operation Air Centre (CAOC) in Torrejon will train NATO Air Policing daily operations, procedures and command and control.</p>	Allied Air Command (AIRCOM), Ramstein, Germany	15 – 19 May	Germany
<p>UNIFIED VISION 18 NATO exercise that aims to test and improve the interoperability of Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance assets and involves fast jets, Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs), frigates, under-water gliders, maritime vehicles, etc.</p>	NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium	4 – 29 June	Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, U.S., North Atlantic
<p>BALTOPS Annual US-led maritime exercise with participation from 17 nations. This exercise will involve roughly 5,700 military personnel, 42 ships and two submarines.</p>	National exercise	5 – 27 June	Poland and Baltic Sea
<p>SABER STRIKE Annual US-led field training exercise. This year it will include around 18,000 troops from 19 NATO nations.</p>	National exercise	6 – 23 June	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
<p>SUMMER SHIELD This annual multinational exercise led by Latvia tests a broad range of combat support elements, including artillery, air defence and reconnaissance. The exercise involves around 2,500 troops from eight Allies.</p>	National exercise	7 – 16 June	Latvia
<p>RAMSTEIN ALLOY 18 II The focus of this NATO air exercise is on enhancing the interoperability of NATO and partner countries. Close Air Support and Search and Rescue training will be part of the exercise.</p>	Allied Air Command (AIRCOM), Ramstein, Germany	25 – 27 June	Estonia

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<p>DYNAMIC MONGOOSE Annual NATO exercise to train submarine warfare, antisubmarine warfare (ASW), ASW surface units and maritime patrol aircraft.</p>	Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), Northwood, United Kingdom	25 June – 6 July	North Atlantic
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP This NATO exercise will involve some 4,000 – 5,000 troops and test the deployment functions of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, the “spearhead force” within the NATO Response Force (NRF).</p>	Joint Forces Command Brunssum (JFCBS), Netherlands	10 – 20 October	Norway
<p>TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2018 NATO’s biggest exercise in recent years, with participation from more than 30 countries. The exercise will train the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force and the NATO Response Force 2019 (NRF 2019).</p>	Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Norfolk, VA, USA and Joint Forces Command Naples (JFCNP), Italy	25 October – 7 November (LIVEX)	Norway, Baltic Sea, North Atlantic
<p>EADRCC Consequence Management Field Exercise “SRBIJA 2018” The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) exercise will take place in Serbia and will include NATO Allies and partners. The exercise will include water rescue and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection.</p>	NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium	8 – 11 October	Serbia
<p>ANAKONDA A Polish exercise which will involve approximately 10,000 troops from around ten Allied nations.</p>	National exercise	8 – 17 November	Poland
<p>CYBER COALITION One of the biggest cyber defence exercises in the world, this NATO exercise trains and tests cyber defenders from across the Alliance.</p>	Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Norfolk, VA, USA and Joint Forces Command Naples (JFCNP), Italy	November	Estonia
<p>NATO-EU Parallel and Coordinated Exercise (PACE 18) NATO and the European Union will interact at staff level in this exercise, based on a hybrid attack scenario. The goal is to improve the coordination of crisis response activities between the two organisations.</p>	NATO HQ Brussels, Belgium	November (tbc)	Belgium