“The NRF is the embodiment of the transformation of NATO’s military capability”
Gen. James L. Jones, SACEUR
The NATO Response Force (NRF) will be a coherent, high readiness, joint, multinational force package; technologically advanced, flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable.

- It will be tailored as required to the needs of a specific operation and be able to move quickly to wherever needed. It will not be a permanent or standing force. The NRF will be able to carry out certain missions on its own, or serve as part of a larger force to contribute to the full range of Alliance military operations. The NRF can sustain itself for up to one month or longer if re-supplied. Its precise size and composition is under study and will be the subject of further definition and refinement, up to its full operational capability.

- With this force the Alliance is giving itself the means to respond swiftly to various types of crisis across the globe, as and where decided by the North Atlantic Council.

- The NRF will comprise national force contributions, which will rotate through periods of training and certification as a joint force, followed by an operational "stand by" phase.
The formation of the rapid reaction NATO Response Force is one of the most important decisions the leaders of NATO’s 19 nations have taken in recent years.

The NATO Heads of State agreed to the concept of a robust, readily deployable and credible force, at the Prague Summit held in November 2002. NATO leaders recognized that modern, flexible, rapidly deployable joint forces, (meaning sea, land and air) are required to meet and defeat today’s asymmetrical threats, most notably terrorism.

NRF development has become the centrepiece and an engine of change for the Alliance as it transforms and positions itself to meet the threats to security and stability in the 21st Century.

“The NRF will not only give us a highly capable quick reaction force, it is also meant as catalyst for continuing improvement in Allies forces and sustaining interoperability across the Atlantic”

NATO Secretary General
NRF Mission

The NATO Response Force, which is driven by the underlying principles: “first force in, first force out”, will be tailored for a specific mission; it will be capable of performing certain missions by its own, as well as participating with other forces.

Deployed as a stand-alone force for Crisis Response, NRF will have the following capabilities:
- Evacuate non combatants from crisis area
- Support consequence management (including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents)
- Support in a humanitarian crisis situation
- Manage crisis response operations, including peacekeeping
- Counter terrorism operations
- Embargo operations

Deployed as an initial entry force; NRF will facilitate the arrival of larger follow on forces, from benign to hostile environment.

Deployed as a demonstrative force package, NRF will show NATO determination and solidarity to deter crises with quick response operations to support diplomacy as required.
NRF Key Aspects

- Mission guided by the **North Atlantic Council consensus** for the causes of peace, humanitarian assistance and stability
- **Six-month rotations** of committed land, sea and air forces enhances capabilities and experience NATO-wide
- **Allied Command Operations (ACO)** Belgium - HQ for NRF creation and force generation
- **Allied Command Transformation (ACT)** Virginia - HQ for the integration of new technologies, doctrine and training
- **NRF3 Command** – Joint Force Command South – Naples, Italy.
- **NRF Timetable**
  - 15 October 2003 - Formation ceremony
  - Autumn 2004 - Initial Operational Capability (IOC)
  - Autumn 2006 - Operational Capability (OC)
- By 2006, **21,000-strong** combined force including a brigade size land element, a joint naval task force, an air force, logistics and support
- Trained and ready for **global deployment** within 5-30 days and self-sustainable for 30 days to stabilize emerging threats and contain crisis

The NRF will draw on combat-ready, interoperable units from contributing NATO nations and national ‘niche’ capabilities, including special forces.
The NRF flexibility gives it unique character, enabling it to be tailored to a specific operation.

It will operate under the command and control of a Joint Force Headquarters that will extract a permanent Deployable Joint Task Force staff as forward command element capable of deploying within 5 days.

The NRF Air component will provide a rapidly deployable capability to conduct appropriate air tasks. Its C2 system should be able to control up to 200 sorties per day.

The Land Component for the NRF will contain a structure sufficient to allow deployment of a tailored brigade size formation composed of manoeuvre elements and the requisite support and breadth of assets to allow it to conduct a wide range of land tasks.

The NRF Maritime components will comprise a force up to a NATO task force size including a carrier battle group with associated surface and subsurface combat units, amphibious forces, naval MCM units and auxiliary support vessels.

If operationally required, special functions, such as special operation forces, could be committed to NRF.
NATO has decided to save resources and exploit expertise inside the Alliance by extracting the LCC structure and staff from the six already existing high readiness force (HRF) Headquarters, ready for the Alliance since 2002: the ARRC, based in Rheindallen, EUROCORPS in Strasbourg, NRDC-Turkey in Istanbul, NRDC-Spain in Valencia, GE-NL Corps in Munster and the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC-IT) based in Solbiate Olona, 30 km North west of Milan.

NRDC-IT has been designated as Land Component Command for NRF 3 from 1st July 2004 to 15th January 2005.

The Land Component Command staff will be composed of about 160 men out the 400 HRF staff members, plus all the logistic and communication assets needed to be rapidly deployable and self sustainable for 30 days.
The Land Component for NRF will contain a structure sufficient to allow the deployment of an appropriate tailored brigade-size formation, composed of manoeuver elements and the requisite support and breadth of assets to allow it to conduct the full range of land tasks in any foreseeable scenario and terrain.

It contains an appropriate mix of heavy, light and airborne forces, as well as the combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) required to support the entire force or any tailored package.

CS and CSS elements include: aviation, artillery, engineer, special forces, logistic and maintenance, communication, air defense, CBRN Defense, transportation, PSYOPS capabilities, CIMIC, Military Police, medical and Public Information.
NRF Brigade

Italy provides the core of the land component forces in the form of the **Taurinense Alpini Brigade**, designated as NRF Brigade, which comprises:

- Brigade Headquarters,
- its Support Battalion, one artillery battery and one engineer coy,
- a light infantry battle group based on 3rd Alpini Regiment
- a mechanised infantry battle group based on the 8th Bersaglieri, equipped with DARDO Fighting Vehicle,
- an airborne Infantry battle group based on the 183rd Airborne Regiment
- a field artillery battalion based on the 8th Field Artillery Regiment;
- air defense assets based on the 17th Air Defence Regiment;

In addition the following non-national components are part of NRF 3: a Spanish recce coy and a Greek air manouvre coy.

The force package for NRF 3 also includes combat support and combat service support assets, and among those the **Multinational Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Defense Battalion** whose creation represents the fulfillment of one of the key Prague capabilities commitments: to enhance the Alliance’s defense capabilities against weapons of mass destruction.