



Observatory

NATO News & Opinion Clips

No.13 – September 2010

Welcome to NATO Watch's monthly *Observatory*. Our focus is on NATO policy-making and operational activities and the clips are drawn from a wide range of subscriptions, feeds and alerts covering a substantial part of the major English language newspapers and other periodicals worldwide. If you are short on time – go straight to the recommended reading, marked ♣♣

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NATO Watch Editorial:

Why parliaments and Congress should ratify the new Strategic Concept

To live up to the reason for which it was created NATO must be open, transparent and accountable to the public. The Strategic Concept review process gave grounds for cautious optimism, with the Secretary General declaring that it was the “*most transparent and inclusive in NATO’s history*”. And NATO has generally surpassed expectations by organising a series of Harmel-plus type consultations, with the eminent persons group headed by Madeline Albright at its heart. However, having published the expert group’s [analysis and recommendations](#), the transparency door appears to be slamming shut during the drafting and negotiation phase.

The assumption is that the whole drafting process will be secret: the draft(s) will not be released until agreement at Lisbon. While there may be a case for allowing governments to discuss finer points in private, not least to enable consensus building around some of the more contentious issues, it does threaten to undermine the whole transparency exercise. Moreover, while the summit programme is not yet finalised, indications are that as little as 90 minutes may be set aside for substantive discussions on *all* issues - the new Strategic Concept just being one item on an agenda that is also expected to include Afghanistan, missile defences and NATO-Russian relations. This is woefully inadequate executive oversight. If NATO is unwilling to publish a working draft of the Strategic Concept (for example, after the mid-October NATO Council meeting), it should instead call upon Member State Parliaments and Congress to ratify the document agreed in Lisbon, and require ratification by all 28 Member States before it comes into effect.

Allegations of WMD use by NATO Member States must be investigated

It has recently been [alleged](#) that Turkey’s military used chemical weapons against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Turkish officials [deny the allegations](#), which are not new – [similar accusations](#) were made in 2006. Existing investigatory mechanisms within the UN and Chemical Weapon Convention need to be triggered by a state request, and none has been forthcoming. Given the seriousness of these

allegations, and the potential for similar contentious charges in the future, NATO ought to agree a political commitment (in one of its summit communiqués) to investigate any allegations of WMD use by a member state using an appropriate international compliance mechanism. In addition, the Alliance might consider developing its own independent investigatory mechanism, which would cooperate with an appropriate international body (in this case, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons).

NATO’s low key response to the Pakistan floods

The humanitarian crisis from the floods in Pakistan—over 20 million people affected (12% of the population)—requires a relief effort of epic proportions. But as Hilary Clinton [said](#) on World Humanitarian Day, the “combined efforts so far pale against the magnitude of the challenge”. NATO’s contribution is particularly underwhelming: three [flights to deliver relief goods](#) donated by Slovakia and Germany, and the use of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels as a clearing house for international humanitarian assistance offered by Allies and partner nations.

[Helicopters are the single most urgent need](#) to reach stranded victims and to deliver supplies. On paper, the members of NATO potentially have over 3,000 helicopters, although of course,

not all of these are available to support flood relief operations in Pakistan. There are currently 21 US military and civilian aircraft doing so, and other non-NATO nations (such as Japan) have sent helicopter support. NATO could and should be doing more in Pakistan and in disaster response more generally. Providing humanitarian aid to help rebuild lives should be a core commitment. While civilian agencies will ultimately take the lead in coordination of these activities, NATO can offer capabilities that other organisations simply are unable to offer. The NATO Response Force should be retooled for humanitarian missions and a common helicopter pool established. In addition, the EADRCC should be expanded and more adequately resourced.

(Democracy Pixels - photo credit: Pete Fletch/flickr)



Time for NATO to relinquish that nuclear banana

There is an African story about catching monkeys that serves as a parable for NATO's attitude to nuclear weapons. A hole is bored into a pumpkin large enough to insert a banana, and then the inside is cleaned out and the banana is dropped in. When a monkey passes by, he smells the banana inside the pumpkin, sticks his forearm in,



feels around, and grabs hold of the banana. And then he is stuck. His brain will not tell him that to free his hand he has to release the banana. He just holds on.

That is the way of NATO today:

continuing to hold on to its nuclear weapons, much like a monkey holds on to a banana. There is no shortage of good advice as to how NATO might go about relinquishing the nuclear banana –

a new [report](#) from the mainstream Royal United Services Institute argues that it is possible to develop a new policy for NATO that allows for a further reduction of the role of nuclear weapons without threatening either Alliance cohesion or strategic stability. But still NATO clings on to its nukes. Indeed, there is a very real prospect that the new Strategic Concept will not contain any policy changes on nuclear issues at all, despite parliaments in several Member States passing resolutions requesting their governments to work towards a reduction in the role of nuclear weapons in the Alliance. Parliaments need to hold their governments accountable for those resolutions and, having come full circle in this editorial, is another reason why our elected representatives should ratify the Strategic Concept.

[Some of these arguments were made in an *Atlantic Community* op-ed, [Three Bold and Innovative Ideas for NATO](#), 29 August]

(Mission Impossible - photo credit: jurvetson/flickr)

News, Commentary and Reports:

Afghanistan:

(photo credit: [Stitch/flickr](#))

News

[As U.S. deaths in Afghanistan rise, military families grow critical](#) - Some families of service members killed in the war say the rules of engagement protect Afghan civilians at the expense of American troops, *LA Times*, 2 September

[NATO air strike kills 10 civilians: Afghan president](#), *AFP*, 2 September

[Secretary General calls for staying the course in Afghanistan during Copenhagen visit](#), NATO News, 31 August

The pace of our troop reductions will be determined by conditions on the ground, and our support for Afghanistan will endure. But make no mistake: This transition will begin -- because open-ended war serves neither our interests nor the Afghan people's.

[Remarks by the President](#) in 'Address to the Nation on the End of Combat Operations in Iraq', White House, 31 August

[Oxfam hit by fatal bomb as Clegg visits troops in Afghanistan](#) - Charity suspends operations in northern province after three staff killed, *The Guardian*, 31 August

[Afghan roadside bombs kill five US soldiers](#), *BBC News*, 31 August

[Afghanistan election: five campaigners for female candidate shot dead](#) - Male volunteers on Fauzia Gilani campaign killed amid growing campaign of intimidation against women running for parliament, *The Guardian*, 29 August

[Taliban spies 'in British Army bases'](#) - Taliban spies are operating in British Army bases in Afghanistan, a former commander in the region has warned, *Daily Telegraph*, 28 August

[NATO kills Afghan children, loses three soldiers](#), *AFP*, 27 August

[Special Forces Ratchet Up Fight Against Taliban](#), *Der Spiegel*, 26 August

[Three Spaniards killed by Afghan police recruit](#), *BBC News*, 25 August



[Afghan elections: Record number of women stand for parliament](#) - Despite everyday prejudice and Taliban death threats a record number of female candidates are standing in September polls, *The Guardian*, 24 August; *Reuters* has a useful [Q & A](#) about how the Afghan elections work

[U.S. General Cites Goals to Train Afghan Forces](#), *New York Times*, 23 August - The American commander in charge of building up Afghanistan's security forces said that in the next 15 months he would have to recruit and train 141,000 new soldiers and police officers — more than the current size of the Afghan Army — to meet President Obama's ambitious goals for getting Afghan forces to fight the war on their own

[Air base expansion plans reflect long-term investment in Afghanistan](#), *Washington Post*, 23 August

[Twenty-five Taliban fighters voluntarily give up arms in Qala-i-Naw](#), *NATO News*, 23 August

[U.S., Afghanistan plan to screen cash at Kabul airport to prevent corruption](#), *Washington Post*, 20 August

[Russia Pitches In to Battle Taliban](#) - Russia is negotiating the sale of about 20 helicopters for Afghanistan, stepping up efforts to help the country's U.S.-backed government battle the Taliban insurgency and drug traffickers, *Wall Street Journal*, 19 August

[German military drops case against Kunduz airstrike colonel](#) - The German military is dropping all charges against a colonel who ordered an air raid that killed dozens of Afghan civilians. Investigators found no evidence that Klein had broken any rules, *Deutsche Welle*, 18 August

[Afghan president orders private security closures](#) - Private security companies will have to end operations in Afghanistan in four months, President Hamid Karzai has ordered, *BBC News*, 17 August

[Afghanistan election fraud fears force 900 polling stations to stay shut](#) - Election commission says it has no option but to turn away voters in some of the most violent parts of Afghanistan, *The Guardian*, 17 August

The people who are working in private security companies are against Afghan national interest, and their salaries are illegal money. They are thieves during the day and terrorists during the night. If they want to serve Afghanistan they have to join the Afghan police.

Speech by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, cited in [Karzai Slams 'Foreign Advisers'](#) - Afghan Leader Seeks Ban on Private Security Firms, Escalating Tensions With U.S., *Wall Street Journal*, 8 August

[Taliban call for joint inquiry into civilian Afghan deaths considered](#) - UN and Nato cautiously consider proposal, which follows reports of high levels of civilian deaths caused by insurgents, *The Guardian*, 17 August

[Military deaths pass 2,000 as Afghan war review looms](#), *Reuters*, 15 August

[General Petraeus insists he will not be bound by Obama's Afghan exit date](#) - New commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan says July 2011 deadline may not be possible, *The Guardian*, 15 August

[Showcase Afghan Army Mission Turns Into Debacle](#), *New York Times*, 12 August

[Germans plan Afghan offensive](#), *Wall Street Journal*, 11 August

[U.S. Military Seeks Slower Pace to Wrap Up Afghan Role](#), *New York Times*, 11 August

[As Afghan Allies Reposition, U.S. Role Evolves](#), Quil Lawrence, *NPR*, 9 August

[Rights Groups Join Criticism of WikiLeaks](#), *Wall Street Journal*, 9 August

[Taliban dismiss Time cover as 'desperate propaganda'](#), *AFP*, 9 August

[Iran plans Afghanistan conference](#), *Financial Times*, 9 August

[Aid agencies in Afghanistan to reassess security and policy following murders](#) - Killing of 10 medical workers sparks questions about future role of NGOs in region and threatens to exacerbate recruitment crisis, *The Guardian*, 8 August

[Gunmen Kill Medical Aid Workers in Afghanistan](#), *New York Times*, 7 August

If you want intelligence in a war zone, you're not going to get it from Mother Teresa or Mary Poppins

An American official quoted in [Key Karzai Aide in Corruption Inquiry Is Linked to C.I.A.](#), *New York Times*, 25 August

'Air strike kills Afghans' hours after Petraeus warning, *BBC News*, 5 August

U.S. Tells WikiLeaks to Return Afghan War Logs, *New York Times*, 5 August

Six policemen die in Afghan suicide attack, *BBC News*, 5 August

Petraeus renews limits on airstrikes in Afghanistan, *McClatchy News*, 4 August

Portrait of Pain Ignites Debate Over Afghan War, *New York Times*, 4 August - Bibi Aisha, the 18-year old woman whose nose and ears were cut off under Taliban orders and whose picture on the cover of TIME magazine has elicited controversy over the last week, is on her way to the US for facial reconstruction surgery

McChrystal reporter barred from being embedded with US troops - Rolling Stone's Michael Hastings claims place with soldiers in Afghanistan revoked after article led to general being fired, *The Guardian*, 4 August

Commentary and Reports

New Resource: DiaryDig.org is an independently produced website which provides an easy way to search through the [Afghan War Diaries](#), which were made public by [Wikileaks](#) on 25 July 2010. The documents are a set of over 76,000 reports (with more coming in the future) which cover the war in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2009. Using DiaryDig you can [browse through all of the documents](#) that have been released, organized by type, category, date, number of casualties, and many other properties. From any [document page](#), clicking on the green underlined text will open a popup that links to other documents that contain those phrases, making it possible to see important search terms and connections that you might not otherwise notice.

Staying Power: The U.S. Mission in Afghanistan Beyond 2011, Michael E. O'Hanlon, *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2010

♣♣ **A Complex War in the Shadows**, Paul Rogers, *Oxford Research Group Briefing*, August 2010

♣♣ **Hardly an Unalloyed Virtue: PMSC in Afghanistan**, David Isenberg, *Huffington Post*, 25 August

The Perilous Slog of Asymmetric Warfare: A Better Way Forward in Afghanistan, Nick M. Masellis, *Strategic Insights*, Spring/Summer 2010 – the author considers the use of special operations forces in Afghanistan as a primary counterinsurgency tactic as opposed to the conventional counterinsurgency operations currently taking place

How to Leave Afghanistan Without Losing - Regional diplomacy could be more than just a buzzword - if the United States would do the right thing, Selig Harrison, *Foreign Policy*, 24 August

Five Lessons to be Learned From Afghanistan, Felix F. Seidler, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 20 August - NATO's expected withdrawal from Afghanistan is the result of a loss in focus. The country will hardly be stable in 2014 and beyond. The aims proclaimed by the international community were not realistic in the first place. Decision makers have to take the long view, if they wish to succeed

♣♣ **The Secret Killers - Assassination in Afghanistan and Task Force 373**, Pratap Chatterjee, *TomDispatch*, 19 August



♣♣ **The Curious Case of Omar Khadr**, M. Junaid Levesque-Alam, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 9 August - a dispatch from the frontiers of rendition

Dismembering Afghanistan, Conn Hallinan, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 5 August

♣♣ **Whose Hands? Whose Blood? Killing Civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq**, Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 5 August

Delivering the message, *NATOchannel.tv*, 3 August – Tribal leaders in the border province of Paktika meet to discuss the Peace Jirga and Kabul Conference before taking the message to their people

Training Afghan Commandos, *NATOchannel.tv*, 2 August – A look at the training carried out by the elite commando unit of the ANA

(A - Assassin's Creed - photo credit: by MoreInterpretations/flickr)

Anyone who thinks the United States is really going to withdraw from Afghanistan in July 2011 needs to come to this giant air base an hour away from Kabul. There's construction everywhere. It's exactly what you wouldn't expect from a transient presence
Spencer Ackerman, *U.S. Supersizes Afghan Mega-Base as Withdrawal Date Looms*, *Wired*, 9 August

[Success Remains Possible in Afghanistan](#), Karsten M. Jung, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 2 August - If little substantial progress was made in Afghanistan under General McChrystal's command, then that is not primarily due to any significant conceptual shortcomings of the 'comprehensive counterinsurgency campaign', but to a lack of political commitment on the part of the Afghans and the coalition

['Capture or Kill' - Germany Gave Names to Secret Taliban Hit List](#), *Der Spiegel*, 2 August

[Obama's New Af-Pak Strategy: Can "Clear, Hold, Build, Transfer" Work?](#) C. Christine Fair, *Afghanistan Paper #6*, The Centre for International Governance Innovation, July 2010 – This paper evaluates whether the “clear, hold, build and transfer” strategy can deliver on the US administration’s objective given the short time-frame and in light of the very difficult security conditions and structural challenges in the field.

[Linking Contracting in Afghanistan to a Winning COIN Strategy](#), ISAF Public Affairs Office, 30 July

[Afghan Women and the Return of the Taliban](#), Aryn Baker, *Time Magazine*, 29 July



Civil Emergency Planning:

[Civil- Emergency Exercise "ARMENIA 2010"](#), NATO News, 27 August - The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) will conduct the consequence management field exercise “Armenia 2010” from 11 to 17 September 2010 in the city of Arzni, in the Kotayk region next to Yerevan in Armenia

(photo credit: NATO)

Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Humanitarian Relief:

[The European Union and the Comprehensive Civil-Military Approach in Euro-Atlantic Security - Matching Reality to Rhetoric](#), Darrell Driver, Major, USA, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Fall 2010, Vol. 4, No. 3

♣♣ [The Strategic Triangle's Crisis Management](#), C. Mazzucelli & O. Dursun-Özkanca, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 30 August - The new Strategic Concept should emphasize the Alliance's role in crisis management, as the floods in Pakistan have demonstrated that NATO's response is inadequate. The US, Turkey, and France, which make up NATO's Strategic Triangle, must take the lead in shaping the Alliance's emergency relief strategy

[The European Union and the Comprehensive Civil-Military Approach in Euro-Atlantic Security - Matching Reality to Rhetoric](#), Darrell Driver, Major, USA, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Fall 2010



[NATO aircraft to depart with more relief goods to Pakistan](#), NATO News, 27 August

[NATO aircraft departs with relief goods to Islamabad](#), NATO News, 22 August (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO aircraft to deliver humanitarian relief goods to Pakistan](#), NATO News, 20 August

[NATO responds to Pakistani request for relief assistance](#), NATO News, 7 August

[Humanitarian Intervention and the Prohibition on the Use of Force](#), Maya Todorova Stanulova, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 2 August - Humanitarian intervention, although not yet an exception to the prohibition on the use of force in Article 2(4), is steadily transforming into such

Intelligence:

[Are risks from WikiLeaks overstated by government?](#) Pentagon sees deadly risk in Wikileaks disclosures, but history is ambiguous on that point, Robert Burns, *AP News*, 17 August

[Wikileaks: Giving Leaks a Bad Name](#), Steven Aftergood, *Secrecy News*, 16 August



[Could WikiLeaks set back information sharing?](#) William Jackson, *Federal Computer Week*, 16 August

[Wikileaks Backlash Could Mean Less Data for Soldiers](#) - Information shared with troops may be restricted, David Talbot, *Technology Review*, 5 August

[NATO AWACS progress: Full Control of an unmanned airborne system](#), Allied Command Operations, News Release, 30 July

(The War Logs - photo credit: alexcovic/flickr)

Iraq:

[Italian Carabinieri train nearly 9 000 members of Iraqi Federal Police](#), NATO News, 26 August

[Update on NATO's training mission in Iraq](#), NATO News, 5 August

Maritime Security and Piracy:

[NATO and Indian Counter-Piracy Task Force commanders meet](#), NATO News, 23 August

[NATO-Japan cooperation thwarts pirate attack in Gulf of Aden](#), NATO News, 16 August

(photo credit: Tim Riley 澳大利亚/Flicker)



Missile Defence:

[NATO and European Missile Defence](#), Dave Webb, *NATO Watch Briefing Paper No.13*, 13 August

[Missile Defense: Pie in the Sky](#), Tom Sauer, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 12 August

[U.S. nears key step in European defense shield against Iranian missiles](#), *Washington Post*, 1 August

[Missile Defense: Challenges and Opportunities for NATO](#), Stephan Fruhling and Svenja Sinjen, *NATO Defense College Research Paper No.60*, July 2010

NATO Enlargement & Partnerships:

[Global Partnership Council for a Global Vision](#), Felix F. Seidler, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - Challenges in today's security environment do not limit themselves to the North Atlantic region. NATO's new Strategic Concept must strengthen the mechanisms for forming global partnerships. A global partnership council should be created to increase global cooperation in Alliance activities

[Partnership 2.0: Toward a More Open Security Concept](#), Walter L. Christman, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - NATO's new Strategic Concept risks "pouring new wine into old wineskins" if it updates the concept of Partnership without reinvigorating the tools to accompany it. Several approaches developed together with the 1999 Strategic Concept should be revitalized for more global application

♣♣ [Public Diplomacy in the Greater Middle East](#), Donatella Scatamacchia, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - In the specific context of the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, NATO's new Strategic Concept should focus on the role that the Alliance plays in the Greater Middle East. A multilateral policy approach and a revitalized public diplomacy campaign are required in order to overcome current obstacles to cooperation in this region

[The Potential of the South Caucasus](#), Jasur Mezhahir Sumerinli, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 29 August - NATO's new Strategic Concept must address its relations with the South Caucasus region, which holds a place of particular geopolitical importance. A special partnership with Azerbaijan, the mediation of frozen conflicts, and a "safety zone" that deepens cooperation between NATO and non-member states are all crucial steps forward



NATO Parliamentary Assembly [Mission Report](#), June Visit to Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities – Progress hostage to political blockages NATO parliamentarians hear in the Balkans, August 2010

(Eastern Partnership Meeting, Sopot – photo credit: Poland MFA/flickr)

NATO Reform:

[The Transformation of NATO's Identity after the Cold War](#), Dzintars Kalnins, *AtlanticCommunity.org*, 23 August - The events of September 11, 2001 changed NATO's identity by providing the Alliance with a new enemy image. The result provides a case study of how the terrorist challenge brought about an identity change in an international organization

[New NATO division to deal with Emerging Security Challenges](#), NATO News, 4 August

NATO-Russia Relations:

[Russia is the Lynchpin of NATO 2020](#), Daniel Nikolits, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 24 August - When looking at the twenty-first century's global security challenges, there is more that unites NATO and Russia than divides them. The next Strategic Concept must aim to strengthen the partnership with Russia for the benefit of both sides

[Russia Calls for Arms Embargo on Georgia After War's Second Anniversary](#), *Eurasia Daily Monitor* Volume: 7 Issue: 157, 13 August 13

[Russian Military Power Advancing in the Black Sea-South Caucasus Region](#), Vladimir Socor, *Eurasia Daily Monitor* Volume: 7 Issue: 157, 13 August

[US Can't Look to NATO or the EU to Support its Russia Strategy](#), Stephen Szabo, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 3 August - Europe is proving a foreign policy disappointment to the Obama Administration as it struggles to propound a clearer strategy toward Russia. Washington now recognises that only Berlin has the key to a new relationship with Moscow

♣♣ [Focusing Back Again on European Security: The Medvedev proposal as an opportunity](#), Jordi Vaquer i Fanés, *Documentos Seguridad y Política Mundial*, 6, July 2010 - In 2008 Russian President Medvedev proposed a new approach to European Security, one which would secure borders and guarantee the territorial integrity of states that Russia saw endangered after the recognition of Kosovo's independence by the vast majority of Western democracies. The proposal of an overarching treaty is now considered unworkable, but it has brought to the forefront the debate about European Security that had been sidelined by a focus on terrorism, the Middle East and Afghanistan in Western security agendas. This paper suggests ten ways in which the momentum could be seized to improve the general context of security in Europe, taking into account the issues raised by the Russian government

[NATO-Russian cooperation at sea](#), NATO News, 2 August

Nuclear Weapons:

(photo credit: hellothomas/flickr)

♣♣ [NATO and Nuclear Weapons: Is a New Consensus Possible?](#)

Steven Andreasen, Malcolm Chalmers and Isabelle Williams, *RUS/ Occasional Paper*, August 2010 - As NATO prepares to agree a new Strategic Concept, questions surrounding the future of nuclear weapons in its security policy have risen to the top of the agenda. Three of the five hosts of US non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe (Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands) have called for a discussion on how NATO can reduce the role of these weapons and move towards the objective of a world free of nuclear arms. But some other countries continue to view these deployments as an essential component of NATO's extended deterrent posture. All member states agree on the importance of building a NATO consensus on this sensitive issue, not least so that the Alliance can focus its energy on more pressing strategic challenges. The authors analyse the policy options that are open to NATO, recommending seven propositions around which the Alliance might be able to forge a new consensus. The report argues that it is possible to develop a new policy for NATO that allows for a further reduction of the role of nuclear weapons without threatening either Alliance cohesion or strategic stability



Recording Casualties:



[Publish or be leaked?](#) Recording civilian casualties in conflict, *NATO Watch Comment*, 27 August

[In Everyone's Interest: Recording All The Dead, Not Just Our Own](#), Hamit Dardagan, John Sloboda and Richard Iron, *British Army Review* Number 149, Summer 2010

[Afghanistan: Call for NATO accountability on civilian deaths after Wikileaks publication](#), Amnesty International, 26 July

(Charle Med performs Mass Casualty exercise - photo credit: Virginia Guard Public Affairs/flickr)

Strategic Concept:

[Cohesion and Clarity should be NATO's priorities](#), Luca Ratti, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - NATO's planners should focus upon retaining cohesion among Cold War and post-Cold War members, as well as designing effective solutions to engage new partners, old enemies, and emerging powers. The Strategic Concept must prioritize cohesion and clarity, rather than spelling out new threats facing the Alliance

[European Stability, Not Global Power Projection](#), Greg Randolph Lawson, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - Rather than aiming to become a global constabulary force, NATO should retain its historical focus on intra-European stability and allow other regional multilateral institutions to take on their own roles in their own neighbourhoods

[Five Strategic Challenges for NATO](#), Youth Atlantic Treaty Association, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - NATO's new Strategic Concept must concentrate on improving relations with rising world powers, developing new policies for inter-organizational cooperation and out-of-area engagements, securing an international missile defence system and expanding the nuclear sharing arrangement, and reforming the burden sharing concept

[Closing the Capabilities Gap](#), Jerzy S Deren, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 31 August - Member states must be able to reach operational capability target goals in order for the Alliance to meet the security obligations that will be outlined in the new Strategic Concept. Standardization and interoperability are key to NATO force planning. Defence priorities must not promise more than capabilities can deliver

[NATO 2020: Downsizing Instead of Reshaping](#), Ari Rusila, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 30 August - Rather than providing for collective defence, today's Alliance is invited to join American wars. Instead of scribbling a new Strategic Concept for NATO that will preserve the dominant position of the US, it might be wiser for European states to develop a New Security Structure within the EU to replace the Cold War relic

[New Secretary General Gives New Vision](#), Olga Kolesnichenko, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 30 August - NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has a clear vision for transforming the organization into a modern Alliance. An analysis of Rasmussen's first-year speeches provides a detailed outline of the strategies and values that will be found in the new Strategic Concept

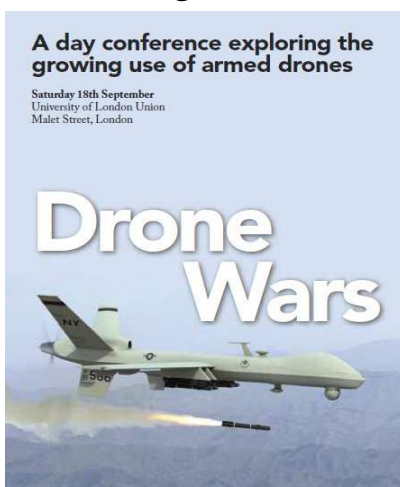
[Three Bold and Innovative Ideas for NATO](#), Ian Davis, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 29 August - NATO's new Strategic Concept should make a political commitment to investigate allegations of WMD use by members of the Alliance, refocus the Response Force toward humanitarian missions and establish a common helicopter pool, and require parliamentary ratification by all 28 member states

[Three Goals for a Modernized Alliance](#), Klaus Spiessberger, *AtlanticCommunity.org*, 24 August - NATO's new Strategic Concept should give priority to three key areas of activity: the strengthening of public diplomacy initiatives, the further development of a modern, flexible Response Force, and the improvement in relations with Russia, with membership as a future consideration

Transatlantic Cooperation:

[NATO's European Dimension](#), SDA Report, August 2010 - In June 2010 the Security & Defence Agenda hosted its annual conference on "NATO's European Dimension" with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. After a keynote speech by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, high-level speakers discussed the future of the alliance, the implications of the financial crisis on the defence sector, and the way ahead in Afghanistan with an audience of over 500 participants. This event was supported by NATO, Lockheed Martin and IBM. This report presents the principal conclusions of the debate

Upcoming Events:



7th Pan-European Conference, Standing Group on International Relations (SGIR), [European Foreign Policy in transition: New IR/EI approaches to EU foreign policy](#), Stockholm, Sweden, 9-11 September

Protecting the global commons, [SDA Roundtable](#), Brussels, 16 September - In cooperation with the Atlantic Council of the United States and NATO ACT, this roundtable will take a hard look at how to secure the natural elements that make up the global commons while maintaining access for users around the world

[Global Leadership Forum 2010](#) - A conference co-organised by RUSI and the Princeton Project on National Security, London, 17 September

[Drone Wars](#) – A day conference exploring the growing use of armed drones, University of London Union, London, 18 September

NATO Defence Ministers Meeting, 14 October

Redefining NATO and the transatlantic relationship, [SDA Roundtable](#), Brussels, 27 October - The long-term effects of the ongoing Afghan conflict on NATO and on the transatlantic relationship are yet to be fully understood. This roundtable will look at this relationship in light of

the looming US mid-term elections and at the validity of the counterinsurgency strategy as an answer to asymmetric conflict

[Waterside Security Conference](#), The NATO Undersea Research Centre, Carrara, Italy, 3-5 November

[NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 56th Annual Session](#), Warsaw, 12-16 November

[NATO Watch Shadow Summit](#), Brussels, 15-16 November

[NATO Summit](#), Lisbon, Portugal, 19-21 November

Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: [darkmatter/flickr](#))

Canada

[WikiLeaks offer insight into Canada's detainee affair](#), Thomas Walkom, *thestar.com*, 28 July

Germany

[As Past Recedes, Germans Reconsider the Draft](#), *New York Times*, 30 August

[Wikileaks Enlivens Debate Surrounding Afghanistan Deployment](#), Editorial Team, *Atlantic-Community.org*, 29 August - A new UN report detailing a shocking increase in the number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan and the mysterious murder of a German doctor helped keep the German contribution to ISAF in the headlines this August. So did the decision of TIME magazine to feature the disfigured face of an Afghan girl on its cover. The documents released by Wikileaks further fed into the debate, as ironically both opponents and supporters of the mission claimed them as evidence to buttress their respective positions

Iceland

[NATO 'no comment' on Russian warplane deal report](#), *Ria Novosti*, 1 September

[Cold war base to be private 'Top Gun' school](#), *Financial Times*, 30 August - Iceland's Keflavik airbase, a bulwark of western security during the cold war, would be home to two squadrons of Russian-made fighter jets under plans being considered by Reykjavik

Netherlands

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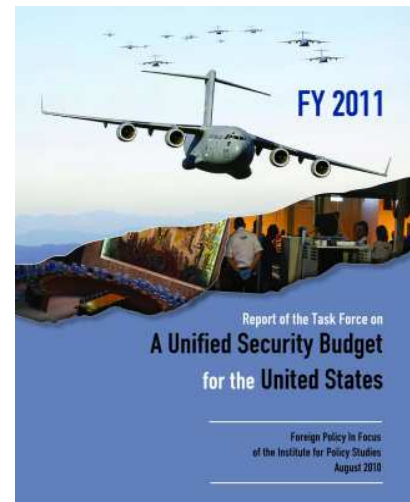
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