



# Observatory

NATO News & Opinion Clips

No.8 – April 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

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## Quote – Unquote:

(photo credit: [reway2007/flickr](#))

*Given the cost of a missile defence system and given limited defence budgets, my deeper concern is that missile defence would come at the expense of the military capacity of Europeans*

French Defence Minister Herve Morin, 31 March – joint [press conference](#) with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen



*While the new START treaty represents real progress, Russian leaders will not embrace deep reductions of all nuclear weapons—including so-called “tactical” systems—as long as Russia’s overall military capability is seen to be dramatically weaker than that of the United States if nuclear weapons are taken out of the equation. Russia will remain deeply concerned about conventional military imbalances between it and NATO, as well as U.S. ballistic missile defense technologies and space-supported conventional strike capabilities.*

George Perkovich, vice president for studies and director of the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, [One Year After Prague: Assessing Obama's Nuclear Agenda](#), 31 March

### NATO WATCH RECOMMENDS:

[“start something powerful”](#)



*Would it, for example, be possible for NATO to maintain a nuclear mission, without permanently (basing) American nuclear weapons in Europe? In my opinion that would be possible. It should in any case be seriously considered.*

Maxime Verhagen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (unofficial translation), [op-ed](#), Trouw, 17 March

*For our deterrence to remain credible, I firmly believe it must continue to be based on a mix of conventional and nuclear capabilities. And our new Strategic Concept should affirm that.*

[Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Warsaw, Poland, 12 March

*My vision is to see a reduction in the arsenal of nuclear weapons as well as conventional capabilities and it is of utmost importance that such reductions take place in a*

*balanced way. Having said this, I also think that a nuclear capability will remain an essential part of a credible deterrence in the future. I share the great vision of a world free of nuclear weapons but as long as we do have nuclear weapons on earth and as long as we do know there are countries and non-state actors that aspire to acquire such nuclear capacities, I think we should have a nuclear capacity as part of our deterrence policy.*

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, [press briefing](#) with the Polish Foreign and Defence Ministers, Warsaw, Poland, 12 March

*The European Parliament.... Draws attention to the strategic anachronism of tactical nuclear weapons and the need for Europe to contribute to their reduction and to eliminate them from European soil in the context of a broader dialogue with Russia; against this background, notes the German coalition agreement of 24 October 2009 to work towards the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Germany as part of the overall process of achieving a nuclear-free world; welcomes the letter sent on 26 February 2010 by the Foreign Ministers of Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Norway to the Secretary General of NATO calling for a comprehensive discussion in the Alliance on how it can move closer to the overall political objective of a world without nuclear weapons.*

European Parliament [resolution](#) of 10 March on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

*Recognizing that in the present international situation the member states’ strategic nuclear forces should ensure sufficient credibility of nuclear deterrence, and bearing in mind the limited operational value of the Alliance’s sub-strategic (tactical) nuclear weapons, NATO will take steps to phase out such weapons deployed in Europe.*

[Report](#) by two leading Polish institutes: Institute of International Relations (University of Warsaw) and Institute for Strategic Studies (Cracow), March 2010

## NATO Watch Feature Article:

### Natoizing Diego Garcia:

#### A proposal for ending 50 years of Anglo-American shame in the Indian Ocean

*Ian Davis, director NATO Watch*

Are you looking for a professional challenge, a close-knit team, unbelievable recreational facilities and exquisite natural beauty? Then a tour of duty with the US Navy on Diego Garcia—the "Best Kept Secret in the Navy"—is the place for you. The Navy's on-line "[Welcome Aboard](#)" pack describes it as the "perfect place" with outstanding living and working conditions and "constantly expanding facilities to make life more comfortable." The pack even includes a short history of Diego Garcia to help new recruits orient themselves.



(aerial view of Diego Garcia - photo credit: [Serendigity/flickr](#))

Unfortunately, however, this history lesson omits to mention the forcible removal by the British government of the original inhabitants of Diego Garcia and a small group of neighbouring islands (collectively known as the Chagos Islands) over 40 years ago. Nor that the British authorities aided and abetted by the US government, continue to prevent their return to this day. In October 2008, the Chagos islanders lost their 10-year legal battle in the British courts to return to the Indian Ocean archipelago. A 3-2 ruling by the law lords (the British equivalent of the US Supreme Court) overturned the islanders' earlier legal victories. The story of the exile of the Chagossians from their homeland is one of the most shameful episodes in Britain's 'special relationship' with the United States – but you won't find any of this mentioned in any US naval tour guide or in the US mainstream press.

The Chagos archipelago is a small group of coral atolls in the Indian Ocean, lying south of the equator, about halfway between India and Africa. Discovered by the Portuguese in the 16th century, the islands remained uninhabited until French coconut planters brought in slave labour 200 years later. Surrendered to Britain after the

Napoleonic wars, the archipelago was a dependency of Mauritius until 1965, when it was detached, later becoming the British Indian Ocean Territories (BIOT). It remains sovereign British territory, although sovereignty is also claimed by both Mauritius and the Seychelles. The UK does not recognise Mauritius' claim, but has [agreed to cede the territory](#) to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes.

The largest atoll is Diego Garcia, a 37-mile-long coral island. Between 1967 and 1971 the British government forcibly removed the estimated 2,000 inhabitants so that the island could be secretly leased to the US Navy for use as a Cold War air and naval base. The islanders were taken to the Seychelles and Mauritius, more than 1,000 miles away, with neither compensation nor help in resettling. Today, many remain in poverty, while their former home is currently occupied by around 2,500 US military and civilian personnel: the serene sounding, [US Navy Support Facility](#), which functions as the host for 16 separate command functions. A 50-strong group of British military personnel handle the administration: police, customs, courts, as well as work and entry permits. Services are provided to the US base under highly lucrative agreements with private military contractors, including that old Washington favourite, Halliburton.

The US military regards Diego Garcia as an indispensable platform for carrying out defence and security responsibilities in the Arabian Gulf, the Middle East, South Asia and East Africa. It has played a vital role in several key military interventions, including the 1991 Gulf War, and more recent campaigns in Iraq (2003) and Afghanistan (ongoing since 2001). US Air Force bombers and Awacs surveillance planes operate from a 12,000ft runway and the USAF Space Command has built a satellite tracking station and communications facility. There have also been periodic reports of the special stealth bomber hangars on the island being upgraded in preparation for strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.



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

A Scottish newspaper recently [revealed](#) that 387 bunker buster bombs were being shipped to Diego Garcia by the US administration. Although there was some speculation that this could have been in preparation for a possible strike against Iran's controversial nuclear facilities, this seems doubtful. President Obama remains unlikely to



authorise such an attack any time soon and the Pentagon has also stated that it would be destabilizing and costly to other efforts in the region. Coupled with General Petraeus' [comment](#) about the timeline having "slid to the right" for a possible Iranian nuclear weapon, it seems more likely that this weapons delivery to Diego Garcia is part of everyday 'just in case' military planning.

Other potential explanations include a re-stocking for Afghanistan missions, where these smaller bunker busters have been used previously (although they hardly fit with the current 'hearts and minds' counter-insurgency strategy), or that the weapons were originally destined for Israel. [One US media report](#), for example, quoting Congressional sources, suggested that the bunker busters had been diverted to Diego Garcia by President Obama as part of an unacknowledged embargo on military equipment for Israel.

British parliamentarians have previously investigated [allegations](#) that the CIA held al-Qaida suspects at one of its "detention without trial" (rendition) prisons on Diego Garcia or on a prison ship off the coast. Despite assurances from the previous US administration to the UK government that this was not the case, in February 2008 British Foreign Secretary David Miliband [admitted](#) that two US extraordinary rendition flights refuelled on Diego Garcia in 2002.

This lack of transparency has recently come under scrutiny by the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee as part of a wider review of UK-US relations. In a critical [report](#) published on 18 March, the committee called for "a comprehensive review of the current arrangements governing US military use of facilities within the UK and in British Overseas Territories". Sir Menzies Campbell MP, a member of the committee and a former Liberal Democrat leader, [said](#) that "The use of British sovereign territory without restriction is clearly something which causes great concern. The government has in the past been reluctant to give specific details about the nature of the agreement which governs US occupation. More transparency is unquestionably required".

Pitched against this sorry saga of deceit, duplicity and human rights violations have been a few investigative journalists like John Pilger (see "[stealing a nation](#)") and civil society groups like the [Peoples Navy](#) and the [Chagossian support group](#). But with only around 850 Chagossians still alive (700 in Mauritius and 150 in the Seychelles), will they ever see justice? The British courts ruled in 2000 that the Chagossians could return to 65 of the islands, but not Diego Garcia. In 2004 the UK government used its '[royal prerogative](#)' to nullify the decision, but the islanders won another battle when the Appeal

Court ruled in May 2007 that the right to go home was "one of the most fundamental liberties known to human beings". However, in October 2007 the British House of Lords gave the government permission to challenge this ruling.

The Bush administration argued that even letting the Chagossians return to the other islands would present a security risk – a ludicrous proposition, given that the islands are their home and Diego Garcia, which is between 60 and 100 miles from the other islands, was not included in the proposed return process. With no hint of irony, the US Navy's welcome pack describes Diego Garcia as the "The Footprint of Freedom", and the UK Law Lords were certainly in step in October 2008 when, in an [83-page judgement](#), they ruled by a narrow majority that the Chagossians have no right to return. And that just leaves an ongoing appeal to the [European Court of Human Rights](#).



(Diego Garcia wharf – photo credit: [Serendigity/flickr](#))

A spokesman for the Chagos Islanders said in a statement before the October 2008 ruling: "The whole Chagossian population was forcibly removed from our homes, our animals were killed and we were dumped, mainly in the slums of Mauritius. We have been treated like slaves". The expulsion of the Chagossians is a classic example of powerful countries doing whatever they feel like. It is a shameful and morally indefensible episode in US-British history that must be corrected.

On 1 March British MP Diane Abbott tabled an [Early Day Motion \(EDM\)](#) which calls on the UK government to withdraw its case from the European Court of Human Rights, conclude a "friendly settlement" with the Chagossians and make provision for a resettlement of the Chagos islands. To date, the EDM has attracted the support of 55 MPs. Also in March the UK government, backed by several leading science and environmental bodies, proposed turning the Chagos Islands into the world's largest [marine reserve](#). The proposers claim that any conservation measures would be adjusted in the event of the Chagossians being granted the right to return. But how likely is it that the UK and US governments would agree to re-settlement on

Diego Garcia? And what about the [pollution risks](#) from the military activities around the atoll, including the repair, maintenance and weapons supply for US nuclear-powered submarines?

The UK-US agreement for the US to use the island as a joint military base was made in 1966 and is due to expire in 2036. However, either government may opt to terminate the agreement in 2016. In an ideal world, the British and US governments would terminate it by mutual consent, drawdown the military base and arrange for the return of the Chagos islanders and the eventual transfer of sovereignty to Mauritius. However, in the world of *realpolitik* and the continuing 'war on terror', it seems unlikely that the US administration will agree to the removal of one of its most strategic assets (despite a [global network of military bases](#) to choose from), or on past evidence, that the UK government would have the backbone to insist that it does so.

(on the beach - photo credit: [Sushicam/flickr](#))



One potential way forward would be for the UK and US to 'Natoize' Diego Garcia, in the same way as the US has sought to Natoize its controversial [missile defence deployments in Europe](#). However, such an option would need to meet three vital pre-conditions: a change of mission; the support of all stakeholders; and proper civilian oversight.

The current US [mission](#) on Diego is to "maintain and operate base facilities for the logistic, service, recreational, and administrative support of US and Allied forces forward deployed to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf". However, behind this benign sounding statement is the reality that the

base has been used for offensive air bombardments using US Air Force B-52s and B-1Bs as well as for the extraordinary rendition of suspected terrorists. Invasion at will of hostile states, torture of captives and indefinite detention without trial have no place in a defensive alliance based on the shared humanitarian and democratic values of its Member States.

Instead, Diego Garcia could become the flagship of NATO transformation and the future hub of fully integrated and multidisciplinary peacekeeping, crisis management and disaster relief operations. It could become a key training and logistical centre for UN-NATO peacekeeping or [R2P](#) missions and/or the [Proliferation Security Initiative](#). A good starting point regarding the latter would be for the UK and US to recognise Diego Garcia as being subject to the [African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty](#) (as they do for the rest of the Chagos Archipelago).

In short, Diego Garcia could be part of a new vision for NATO, but its exact role and status would need to be carefully debated by all stakeholders, and especially the displaced Chagossians. The UK and US governments could take the opportunity to establish a special joint commission for this purpose, which would include Chagossian representatives as well as envoys from NATO, the Mauritius and potentially other regional stakeholders. The aim would be to draw-up a blueprint acceptable to all parties in time for a handover in 2016.

Finally, any future arrangement would also require mechanisms for proper civilian oversight, including regular verification inspections by NATO parliamentarians (and possibly by international inspectors) of the military facilities on Diego Garcia, as well as full and transparent annual reporting and disclosure of budgetary arrangements.

Could this proposal contribute to a far-sighted and imaginative long-term solution to the running sore in British-American relations that is Diego Garcia? The stolen nation deserves nothing less. What do you think? Please [write to us at NATO Watch with your views](#)

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## News, Commentary and Reports:

### Afghanistan:

#### News

[Karzai Steps Up Attacks on NATO, Boxing In the West](#), *New York Times*, 4 April

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



[Mongolia becomes the 45th nation contributing troops to the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan](#), NATO News, 29 March

[U.S. Official Defends Contractors' Mission](#), *New York Times*, 25 March

[Insurgent Faction Presents Afghan Peace Plan](#), *New York Times*, 23 March

[Provincial Reconstruction Teams look at way forward in Afghanistan](#), NATO News, 19 March

[Kunduz Bombing in Afghanistan: German Defense Ministry Sought to Obscure the Truth](#), *Spiegel Online International*, 18 March

[General Stanley McChrystal reins in special forces after raids kill civilians](#), *The Times*, 17 March

[U.S. believes key al Qaeda planner killed in Pakistan](#), A US drone strike in Pakistan last week appears to have killed a top al Qaeda planner, *Reuters*, 17 March

(2010 Provincial Reconstruction Team Conference, 'The Year Ahead', Kabul, 16-17 March - photo credit: ISAF Joint Command/flickr)



[Taliban Hit Back in Marja With a Campaign of Intimidation](#), *New York Times*, 17 March

[Militant Claims Work on Anthrax Bomb in Afghanistan](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 16 March

[U.S. Is Reining In Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan](#), *New York Times*, 15 March

[Contractors Tied to Effort to Track and Kill Militants](#), *New York Times*, 14 March

[Afghan Tribal Rivalries Bedevil a U.S. Plan](#), *New York Times*, 11 March

[Britain to Hamid Karzai: start Afghanistan peace talks](#)

[now](#) - Foreign Office officials believe elements of Taliban ready to talk but fears grow of long Afghan conflict, and growing casualties, *The Guardian*, 10 March

## **Commentary and Reports**

[A Hint of Victory?](#) Paul Rogers, Oxford Research Group, March 2010

[Can Anyone Pacify the World's Number One Narco-State?](#) The Opium Wars in Afghanistan, Alfred W. McCoy, *TomDispatch.com*, 30 March

US Department of State, [Background Note: Afghanistan](#), 29 March

NATO Channel TV series: [A multinational PRT](#), 19 March. A Lithuanian-led PRT has Croatian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Japanese, and American military and civilians working together to bring security and development to Ghor Province

♣♣ [Policing Afghanistan - How Afghan Police Training Became a Train Wreck](#), Pratap Chatterjee, *TomDispatch.com*, 21 March

NATO Channel TV series: [Reintegrating the Taliban](#), 17 March

NATO Channel TV series: [Bringing about change in Central Helmand, Afghanistan](#), 15 March

[Private Military Contractors as Buzz Lightyear: To Afghanistan and Beyond](#), David Isenberg, *Huffington Post*, 11 March

[Operation Moshtarak illustrates way forward in Afghanistan](#) – Briefing by NATO's Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan, Ambassador Mark Sedwill, NATO News, 10 March

Blog, [Reeba in Afghanistan -- Day Four: Bamiyan Leaders](#), US Mission to NATO, 10 March

[Training, Investment Create Sustainable Afghan Army](#), ISAF Public Affairs Office, 9 March

♣♣ [Is European public opinion likely to force troop withdrawals from Afghanistan?](#) Martin Barber, *Europe's World*, 8 March

*Bearing in mind the manner in which irregular and asymmetric warfare has evolved in recent years, it would be wise to assume that we are close to the point in which drone technology becomes readily available to paramilitary groups*

Paul Rogers, Oxford Research Group



♣♣ [Do professional ethics matter in war?](#) Hugh Gusterson, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 4 March

♣♣ [Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians](#), Susan G. Chesser, US Congressional Research Service, 26 February 2010

## Arms Control:

[NATO Secretary General welcomes US-Russia arms control deal](#), NATO News, 26 March

[NATO and partners exchange best practices against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats](#), NATO News, 22 March

[Trust Fund project to help Georgia dispose of explosive war remnants](#), NATO News, 12 March

[Stopping the Destructive Spread of Small Arms: How Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation Undermines Security and Development](#), Rachel Stohl and EJ Hogendoorn, Center for American Progress, *Sustainable Security Series*, March 2010

[Clearing cold war remnants in Azerbaijan](#) - NATO helps make former military base safe for civilians, NATO News, 8 March

## Counter-Terrorism:

[Science workshop looks at how to identify terrorist behaviour](#), NATO News, 17 March

## Cyber Security:

[UK Govt Calls for Coordinated Cyber Security Efforts](#), *Defence iQ*, 31 March



[Cyberdefence and security policy - protecting sensitive systems and information from cyberattacks](#), Ilias Chantzios, *Europe's World*, Spring 2010

[Cyberwar declared as China hunts for the West's intelligence secrets](#), *The Times*, 8 March

[Cyberwar Hype Intended to Destroy the Open Internet](#), Ryan Singel, *wired.com*, 1 March

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

## Defence Budgets & Procurement:

[Six Allies agree to cooperation on movement control for NATO operations](#), NATO News, 23 March

♣♣ [Building Integrity and Reducing Corruption in Defence: A Compendium of Best Practices](#), Todor Tagarev, ed., NATO/DCAF, March 2010. Transparency and corruption challenges in the defence sphere often affect not only transition states but also established democracies. This compendium, the product of cooperation between Transparency International UK, the NATO PfP team and DCAF, focuses on concepts and tools which can ensure good practices in defence management and policy through 'integrity building'.

SDA Conference Report, [NATO, the credit crunch and the new security environment](#), March 2010. In December 2009 the Security & Defence Agenda organised an international conference with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Hewlett Packard, Lockheed Martin and NATO.

[Europe cries foul over US defence tender](#), *Financial Times*, 9 March

## Missile Defence:

[France sceptical over NATO missile defence plan](#), *Reuters*, 31 March

[Questions Persist Over Arms Pact's Missile Defense Terms](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 29 March

[Missile defence controversy remains after START accord](#), *Sofia Echo*, 27 March

[Missile Defense Needed Against Growing Threat, NATO Chief Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 26 March

[Missiles must balance offense, defense needs](#), *The Huntsville Times*, 25 March

[Pentagon Seeks to Join U.S., Allied Missile Defenses](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 24 March

[Ballistic Missile Defense System Joint/Combined Warfighter Conference 10-1](#), Frank A. Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Bureau of Verification, Compliance, and Implementation, Schriever Air Force Base, CO, 16 March

[NATO Head Urges Creation of Missile Shield](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 15 March

[NATO Commander Supports Partnering With Russia on Missile Shield](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 12 March

[Missile Defense in Europe – Stronger. Smarter. Sooner](#), Ivo H. Daalder - United States Permanent Representative to NATO, *Die Zeit*, 11 March

*Missile defenses also provide U.S. and allied forces with freedom of maneuver by helping to negate the ability of regional actors to inhibit or disrupt U.S. military access and operations in the region*

Frank A. Rose, US Bureau of Verification, Compliance, and Implementation, 16 March

## NATO Enlargement & Partnerships:

[NATO encourages Georgia to continue reforms](#), NATO News, 25 March; [Press point](#) with NATO Sec General Anders Fogh Rasmussen & President Mikheil Saakashvili, 25 March

[North Atlantic Council visits Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), NATO News, 23 March

Creating the Next Generation of NATO Partnerships, Stephan Frühling and Benjamin Schreer, *RUSI Journal*, Vol.155 No.1, February/March 2010

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), Security in the Gulf and the Mediterranean matters to NATO, 9 March

[Secretary General underlines NATO's strategic interest in the security of all ICI partner countries](#) - NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen paid his first official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 7 and 8 March 2010, NATO News, 9 March

♣♣ [From Neutrality to NATO - The "tyranny of small steps" leading Sweden into the military alliance](#), [www.stoppanato.se](http://www.stoppanato.se), revised version February 2010

## NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

[Parliamentarians and experts from Armenia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Other NATO and Partner Countries Discuss Regional Relations](#), 16 March

## NATO-Russia Relations:

'NATO and Russia working together to enhance our shared security', video [blog](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, 27 March

[Laissez Faire, Laissez Passer: NATO Takes Cue From French Warship Deal With Russia](#), Vladimir Socor, *Eurasia Daily Monitor* Volume: 7 Issue: 49, 12 March

[Russia's Policy in the Middle East: Prospects for Consensus and Conflict with the United States](#), Dmitri Trenin, Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, A Century Foundation Report, March 2010.

♣♣ [It's Time to Invite Russia to Join NATO](#), Volker Rühle, Klaus Naumann, Frank Elbe and Ulrich Weisser, *Der Spiegel*, 8 March

## Nuclear Weapons:

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

[Hundreds detained in Belgian anti-nuclear protest](#), *Associated Press*, 4 April

♣♣ [One Year After Prague: Assessing Obama's Nuclear Agenda](#), George Perkovich, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 31 March

'No Disarmament Without NATO', Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany and Maxime Verhagen, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, [Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung](#) and [De Volkskrant](#), 26 March. For an English translation, click [here](#)

[START Follow-On Talks Successfully Concluded: What's Next?](#) Nikolai Sokov, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, 25 March





[Nato experts group say US nukes should stay in Europe](#) - Hold on to the bombs until they can be traded in a new treaty, advisory panel will say in May report, Julian Borger, *The Guardian*, 29 March

[Europe's Nuclear-Disarmament Delusion](#), Michael Anton, *Wall Street Journal*, 25 March

[At the Crossroads: NATO Nuclear Policy](#), Atlantic Council, Washington DC, 19 March

♠♠ [NATO's Tactical Nuclear Dilemma](#), Malcolm Chalmers and Simon Lunn, *RUSI Occasional Paper*, March 2010

[Verhagen says chance of nuclear disarmament now greater than ever](#), Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Newsflash, 17 March

[Nuclear Bomb Updates Could Follow European Anti-Nuke Push](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 16 March

[Washington Mulls Modernisation of Aging Bombs](#), Otfried Nassauer, *SpiegelOnline*, 15 March

[U.S. Carefully Considers Future of Nukes in Europe](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 15 March

[US cautious on removing nuclear arms from Europe](#), Robert Burns, *Associated Press*, 14 March

[Extended deterrence and the tactical nuclear mirage](#), Joshua Pollack, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 12 March

[NATO's Nuclear Policy in 2010: Issues and Options](#), Walter B. Slocombe & Annette Heuser, *Atlantic Council Issue Brief*, March 2010

[Hard to Get U.S. Nukes Out of Europe, Former Australian FM Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 12 March



♠♠ [Ridding the Arctic of Nuclear Weapons: A Task Long Overdue](#), Michael Wallace and Steven Staples, Canadian Pugwash and the Rideau Institute, March 2010

[Arms Control Advocates Call for Nuke-Free Arctic Zone](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 10 March

[NATO Goes Anti-Nuclear?](#) Support for nuclear disarmament has spread to the heart of the Atlantic alliance and beyond, Alice Slater, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 9 March

## Peacekeeping:

[NATO airlifts African Union troops into Somalia](#), NATO News, 18 March

[NATO-peacekeeping in the Holy Land? A feasibility study](#), Florence Gaub, *NATO Defense College Research Paper No.57*, March 2010 Could NATO realistically consider a meaningful mission in the Middle East?

## Piracy:

[NATO's counterpiracy coordination with EU and US-led group reinforced](#), NATO News, 1 April

[One Year On NATO Remains Vigilant in Gulf of Aden](#), Allied Maritime Command Headquarters Northwood, News Release, 24 March

[NATO warship forces pirates to release ship](#), NATO News, 17 March

[Piracy – threat or nuisance?](#) Alessandro Scheffler, NATO Defense College, *Research Paper No. 56*, February 2010. Is piracy really one of the major scourges of the 21st century and should NATO reserve a prominent place for piracy in its strategic thinking?

(Royal Marines rapid rope aboard suspected pirate vessel - photo credit: [Defence Images/flickr](#))



## Strategic Concept:

[NATO's New Strategic Concept - A view from the Western Balkans](#), Report on the key findings of IDM regional Survey in the Western Balkans countries, March 2010

[New Strategic Concept of the Atlantic Alliance 2010: A Proposal](#), Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw and Institute for Strategic Studies, Cracow, March 2010

[Nato asks Geoff Hoon to step down as policy expert](#), *The Independent*, 25 March

[Geoff Hoon asked to leave Nato advisory post](#), *The Guardian*, 24 March

[Reinforcing NATO's Identity](#), Mikko Patokallio, ISN Security Watch, 24 March

[NATO's new Strategic Concept discussed in Warsaw](#), NATO News, 12 March

The Center for International Relations & the Ministry of National Defence and in cooperation with NATO HQ, third annual international conference on NATO and international security, [NATO's New Strategic Concept – Global, Transatlantic and Regional Challenges and the role of Central Europe](#), Warsaw Poland, 12 March

[Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at NATO's New Strategic Concept - Global, Transatlantic and Regional Challenges and Tasks Ahead - Warsaw, Poland, 12 March

## Transatlantic Cooperation:

[It's high time the EU and NATO worked shoulder to shoulder](#), Sören Gade Jensen, Minister of Defence, Denmark, *Europe's World*, Spring 2010

[Brussels Forum 2010](#): an “annual high-level meeting of North American and European political, corporate and intellectual leaders who gather to address key challenges facing both sides of the Atlantic”, organised by the German Marshall Fund

- ‘Building a Euro-Atlantic Security Architecture’, [speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, 27 March ([video](#) of the speech)
- ["One security roof" from Vancouver to Vladivostok](#), NATO News, 27 March
- [NATO: Europe Must Upgrade Defenses](#), *Associated Press*, 27 March



(photo credit: NATO)

[Reshaping EU-US Relations: A Concept Paper](#), *Notre Europe*, March 2010

[US force posture in Europe - assuring Allies in an Uncertain World](#), The Atlantic Council, Washington DC, 18 March - This Atlantic Council hosted conference with senior administration officials and US and European experts assessed the alternative futures for US force posture in Europe. For an audio of the event, click [here](#)

- [Remarks](#) Honorable Michael Turner Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces House Armed Services Committee Atlantic Council Panel Discussion: Congressional Views on U.S. Force Structure in Europe and its Assurance Effect
- [Primer document](#) on US force posture in Europe
- [U.S. Army Force Posture in Europe: Building Allied Capability](#), Colonel Alan Hester

[Transatlantic Security in the 21st Century: Do New Threats Require New Approaches?](#) Testimony by Dmitri Trenin, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, 17 March

[Should Europe urge member states to move to more Atlantic cooperation or should the EU central leadership tacitly approve the pursuit of national agendas?](#) Adam Topolansky, *Europe's World*, 11 March

## Upcoming Events:

NATO-EU Assets and Interoperability, ISIS Europe Seminar, Brussels, 13 April

The International Center for Defence Studies in cooperation with NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Annual Lennart Meri Conference “Tomorrow’s NATO – Stronger Values and Stronger Capabilities”, 21–23 April, Nordic Hotel Forum, Tallinn, Estonia

[Informal Meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers](#), Tallinn, Estonia, 22-23 April

[The Eleventh RUSI Ballistic Missile Defence Conference](#), Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London, 26-27 May



[NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session](#), Riga, Latvia, 28 May- 1 June.

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

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



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[Romania's planned jet purchase draws fire](#), *Financial Times*, 29 March

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[The United States and Turkey: A View from the Obama Administration](#), Philip H. Gordon, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC, 17 March

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[UK has 5,700 "secret agents"](#) - Britain employs more than 2,200 spies to protect the country against terrorism and the threat from foreign enemies, it has been disclosed, *Daily Telegraph*, 18 March

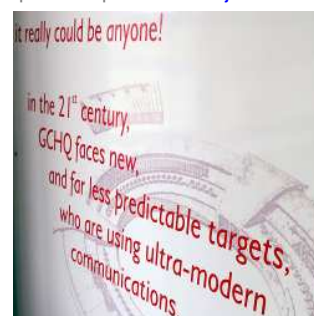
[MI5 and MI6 have to deal with torturers, government says](#) - The security services "cannot afford the luxury" of dealing only with countries which respect human rights, says UK government, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 March

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(GCHQ poster – photo credit: [jovike/flickr](#))





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[Drones Batter Qaeda and Allies Within Pakistan](#), *New York Times*, 4 April

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## IDEAS, FEEDBACK, SUGGESTIONS?

**Ideas, feedback, suggestions?** We want to hear from you. Please contact us at [NATO Watch](#) with any news and stories for the *Observatory*, as well as feedback or suggestions.

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