



Observatory

NATO News & Opinion Clips

Promoting a more transparent and accountable NATO

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Welcome to NATO Watch's monthly *Observatory*: the only online publication dedicated entirely to news and independent commentary on NATO policy-making and operational activities. 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:

Sauce for the goose and the gander

In October last year, North Korea drew a [stern rebuke from the US State Department](#) for boasting it possessed missiles capable of reaching the mainland United States. A State Department spokeswoman said "Rather than bragging about its missile capability, they ought to be feeding their own people". Pyongyang has a long record of making unsubstantiated assertions about its military capabilities and most experts agree that North Korea remains a long way from having the necessary know-how to develop an ICBM capability or to build warheads small enough to be fitted to such a missile.

The United States, on the other hand, has 500 launchers and deployed warheads in its [ICBM inventory](#). Clearly, therefore, America wins hands down any bragging rights over long-range missiles. The world's wealthiest and most heavily armed nation is on more shaky ground, however, when it lectures North Korea on food insecurity.

[According to a coalition of organisations working to end hunger in the United States](#), 16.7 million American children—nearly one in four—live in households that do not have access to enough nutritious food to lead active, healthy lives. Within NATO member states, the US is not alone

in suffering food insecurity and growing levels of inequality: Britain has seen a [boom in food banks](#) for struggling families. Austerity measures in several other European states are creating similar levels of human and food insecurity.

In other words, what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander: both North Korea and the United States (and NATO allies) should cease making missiles and concentrate on feeding their people.

When declarations of integrity are not enough

In describing the limits of his oeuvre, the English poet W.H.Auden wrote, "Verse was a special illness of the ear; Integrity was not enough". Integrity, generally regarded as a 'good thing', is something that NATO is seeking to build in the defence and security sector through a partnership programme established in 2007. [NATO's Building Integrity programme](#) seeks to "raise awareness, promote good practice and provide practical tools

to help nations enhance integrity and reduce risks of corruption in the security sector by strengthening transparency and accountability".

As an advocate for greater transparency and accountability within the Alliance, NATO Watch obviously welcomes this initiative and provided a chapter for a [compendium of best practices](#) published by NATO in 2010. As always, however, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Or in other words, to fully test something you need to experience it yourself. In this respect, NATO's recent experience is decidedly mixed. At the NATO Summit in Chicago in May last year a Status Report on the initiative was discussed. But apart from a short [reference to it on the NATO website](#) the Report does not appear to be in the public domain. Similarly, a Building Integrity Education and Training Plan agreed by the North Atlantic Council in August 2012 also remains classified. So much for strengthening transparency and accountability!

In taking this work forward, Allies agreed that priority should be given to developing a Building Integrity contribution to support the Afghan National Security Forces. This is in addition to ongoing efforts to develop a tailored programme to support nations in South Eastern Europe. In other words, this is largely an outreach programme to build integrity among external partners rather than among Allies.



(Guns or butter – photo credit: Andrew Scott/ flickr)

The implicit assumption that NATO and its member states are exemplars of good governance and integrity might be misplaced, however. Take a recent [report](#), for example, that found from 2009 to 2011, 70 percent of retiring three- and four-star generals and admirals left the Pentagon to take jobs with private contractors and consulting firms. A similar 'revolving door' between government and the private sector exists in Britain and undoubtedly other NATO member states as well. Is the system within NATO and member states for regulating this 'revolving door' sufficiently transparent and robust to ensure that there is no cause for any suspicion of impropriety?

The newly opened [Norwegian Centre for Integrity in the Defence sector](#)—the latest welcome ingredient in the Building Initiative pudding—might wish to explore this question as well as making publicly available all the internal reports and action plans associated with the Building Integrity initiative. Declarations of integrity are not enough.

Is Britain now locked-in to like-for-like Trident replacement?

In Feb 2011, [this author warned](#) that it would be too late to halt the like-for-like Trident replacement if parliament didn't review the programme there and then. The prediction was that the UK Government would argue further down the line that the placing of long-term design and development contracts would lock Britain in to building a new fleet of submarines that can carry the Trident II missile – just as contracts entered into by New Labour for two aircraft carriers, were deemed 'unbreakable' even when the Coalition Government began to question their value.

So what is the state of play today, following the publication in December of the defence secretary, Philip Hammond's, [annual Update to Parliament](#) on current work on the like-for-like replacement of Britain's nuclear 'deterrent'? While the report steers clear of explicitly claiming that the process is now irreversible, it is implicit that this is where the debate is heading. In his latest assessment Hammond sets out the level of investment that the government has so far made on the early design and development of a replacement for the current Vanguard fleet. Contracts worth £700m have been agreed with BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce and Babcock for the overall design of the Successor submarine, its parts and its reactor.

The outcomes of a separate Cabinet Office review of alternatives to Trident as well as an [independent Commission study](#) are not due until the first half of 2013. Both are likely to suggest that the UK could move to a cheaper, alternative deterrent which is carried by some of the new fleet of Astute "hunter killer" submarines and launched from cruise missiles, or that the costs of the deterrent could be scaled back by ending round-the-clock patrols of the North Atlantic. They may even suggest that Britain could make a more radical move towards a 'virtual' deterrent, although neither study is likely to call for complete nuclear disarmament at this point in time.

But do these contracts really lock Britain in to 'like-for-like' replacement? The aircraft carrier decision was deemed 'unbreakable' not just for legal reasons, but also because it was inextricably linked to the strategic need to maintain a stable supply of work for Britain's sole warship supplier (BAE Systems). The same

arguments are being made with regard to Trident replacement, with around 1,000 workers at BAE Systems shipyards in Barrow now said to be dependent on the Successor programme.

But defence industrial and employment concerns are poor rationales for spending multiple billions of pounds on a nuclear missile system designed with the sole strategic purpose of flattening Moscow at the press of a button. Given that Muscovites now spend freely in UK cities and own several of London's leading cultural and sporting institutions, it is presumed that a different strategic rationale ought to govern Britain's future nuclear options and defence choices more broadly.

But when it comes to British defence policy history has a habit of repeating itself, first as tragedy (as in Iraq and Afghanistan) then as farce. So, in an annual Christmas lecture by the chief of defence staff General Sir David Richards a [return to "east of Suez"](#) is advocated—principally to support British commercial interests among the emirates, sultanates and kingdoms of the Gulf (clearly British support for the Arab Spring can only be stretched so far)—and a fantasy shopping list of new British bases and military commitments not only in the Middle East but anywhere in the world where British and 'allied' interests might be threatened.

Given the effect of defence cuts on the British Armed Forces' ability to conduct existing operations let alone new ones, together with another defence procurement black hole of around £4 billion on the horizon, Britain's top general might have also taken the opportunity in such a wide-ranging speech to comment on Britain's most powerful and expensive non-weapon. But no: as ever Trident remained out of bounds. Tony Blair reportedly signed up for Trident replacement, not because he was convinced as to the effectiveness of the nuclear deterrent but due to political expediency and institutional momentum. Cameron, the chief of defence staff and the wider UK defence establishment appear set to continue with Westminster's longest running farce.



(The US Navy's Trident nuclear powered submarine USS Alaska (SSBN 732) is guided into an explosives handling wharf at the US Submarine Base, Bangor, USA. If Scotland votes for independence in 2014 might this be the future home of the British nuclear weapon fleet? Photo credit: Marion Doss/ flickr)

News, Commentary and Reports:

Afghanistan-Pakistan:

News

(photo credit:
Stitch/flickr)

[US drone attack in Pakistan 'kills eight militants'](#), *BBC News*, 6 January - a US drone attack

killed at least eight suspected militants in Pakistan's north-western tribal area of South Waziristan, including the alleged head of the Pakistani Taliban's suicide attack wing, Wali Mohammad Toofan - a cousin and close aide of Tehreek-e-Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud

[Drone Kills a Pakistani Militant Behind Attacks on U.S. Forces](#), *New York Times*, 3 January - a US drone strike killed Pakistani militant commander Maulvi Nazir, considered by the Pakistani military to be one of the "good Taliban" because he focused his attacks on US forces in Afghanistan rather than Pakistani officials and security forces. The drone-fired missile struck a house in Angoor Adda, near the city of Wana, South Waziristan, killing nine people inside

[Afghan War Commander Gives Options for After '14](#), *New York Times*, 2 January - Gen. John R. Allen, the senior American commander in Afghanistan, has submitted military options to the Pentagon that would keep 6,000 to 20,000 American troops in Afghanistan after 2014

[Afghan Warlord Hekmatyar Vows Fresh Attacks on NATO Troops](#), *Nahamet*, 2 January

♠♠ [With U.S. Set to Leave Afghanistan](#), *Echoes of 1989*, *New York Times*, 1 January

[NATO Secretary General welcomes Afghan transition announcement](#), NATO Press Release, 31 December

[Record number of Afghan soldiers killed in 2012](#), *The Express Tribune*, 30 December

[Afghanistan situation 'improving', says NATO](#), *Newsday*, 30 December

[Afghan 'rogue' attacks kill US aide and five police](#), *BBC News*, 24 December - an Afghan policewoman has killed a US civilian aide at the police headquarters in Kabul

(US soldier disassembles an antenna atop a platoon operation centre command vehicle at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Afghanistan, 6 January 2013 – photo credit: Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs Office/ flickr)



[Missing: \\$200M in gas receipts for NATO aid in Afghanistan](#), *Centre for Public Integrity*, 24 December

[Former Soviet states prepare for NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 22 December

[NATO troops pullout from Afghanistan to create more problems – Putin](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 20 December

[Afghanistan's Garmsir is a success for Nato – but its future remains uncertain](#), *The Guardian*, 12 December -Taliban may be biding their time in Garmsir, Helmand province, which has been superficially transformed with NATO cash

[NATO drone crash in Helmand province of Afghanistan](#), *Khaama Press*, 12 December

[U.S. force in Afghanistan may be smaller than expected after 2014](#), *LA Times*, 11 December - the Obama administration plans to keep 6,000 to 9,000 troops there despite requests from military commanders for a larger presence

[Afghan women 'failed' by justice system](#), *BBC News*, 11 December - a report by the UN office in Kabul assesses the implementation and efficacy of the 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women Act, and finds that prosecutions under the law have risen over the past year, but still lag far behind the number of reports of violence that authorities receive. According to the report, the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission received over 4,000 complaints of violence against women in the seven months between March and October of this year, nearly twice as many as it received over the previous 12 months

[Pentagon Says Afghan Forces Still Need Assistance](#), *New York Times*, 10 December

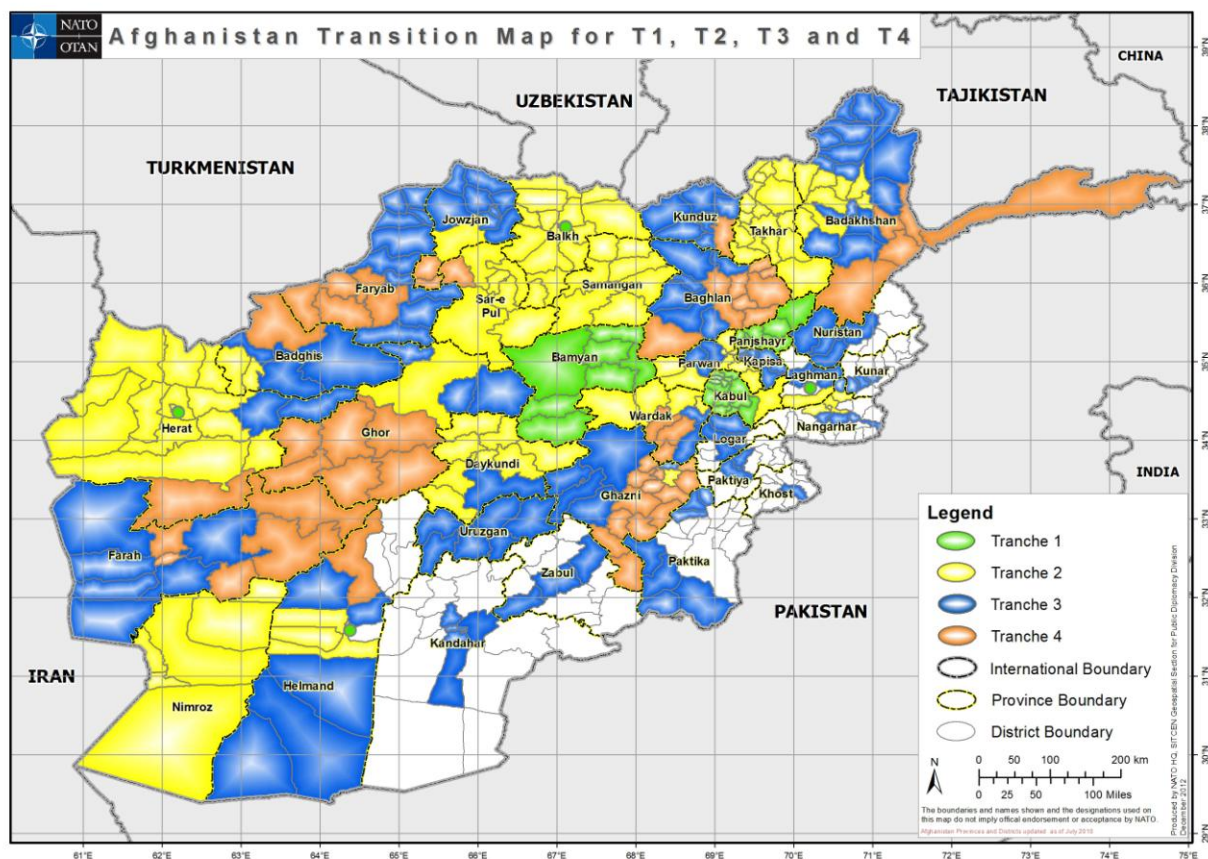
[No Easy Exit for NATO in Afghanistan](#), *Judy Dempsey*, *New York Times*, 10 December

[Dunford Steps Up Again In Nato Role](#), *U-T San Diego*, 9 December - those who know general, who will take reins in Afghanistan, praise both his diplomacy and his fighting spirit

[NATO shares blame for 'insecurity' in Afghanistan](#): Karzai, *AFP*, 7 December

[Pakistan's largest city rocked by wave of violence](#), *Dawn.com*, 6 December - fierce political and sectarian violence in Karachi has made 2012 one of the deadliest years for the city, with almost 2,000 people killed as of late November. The Taliban have reportedly grown in number there as they take advantage of the chaos created by political violence





(Map reflecting T4 – fourth phase of transition - announced on 31 Dec 2012 – credit: NATO)

[Nato forces 'attack Afghan health clinic'](#), *The Guardian*, 6 December – Swedish aid group says NATO and Afghan troops damaged its building and used it as jail

[U.S. pushes to restart peace talks with Taliban](#), *Washington Post*, 4 December

[Pakistani Foreign Minister visits NATO, holds talks with North Atlantic Council](#), NATO News, 3 December - NATO Secretary General welcomed Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar to NATO HQ for a discussion on issues of common interest, including stability in Afghanistan

Commentary and Reports

[NATO's departure from Afghanistan: an orderly rush to the blocked exits?](#) Nigel Chamberlain, *NATO Watch Briefing Paper No.29*, 8 January

[NATO in Afghanistan - 2012 a year in review](#), *NATO Community/ You Tube*, 7 January

[Can Afghan troops hold off the Taliban after Nato withdraws?](#) Julian Borger, *The Guardian*, 1 January - the Afghan army is showing signs of strength, but it is far from battle-ready and both logistical and human obstacles remain

[Afghanistan's Roadmap to the Past](#), Sarah Chayes, *Carnegie Article*, 31 December



♠♠ [Talking to the other side: humanitarian engagement with the Taliban in Afghanistan](#), Ashley Jackson and Antonio Giustozzi, *HPG Working Papers*, December 2012 - an investigation into how aid agencies engage with the Taliban to reach Afghans in need of assistance, the first substantive research of its kind, based on interviews with the Taliban

[The root cause of green on blue attacks](#), Nasim Fekrat, *Open Democracy*, 17 December

[Afghan 'Roadmap' to Peace—A Dead End for Human Rights?](#) Rachel Reid, *Foreign Policy*, 13 December

[A decade of western folly has erased hope from Afghanistan](#), Jonathan Steele, *The Guardian*, 10 December - with the exit of US troops the Taliban are poised to fill the gap. The Afghans' mood is febrile and gloomy

[In Brief: Next Steps in the War in Afghanistan? Issues for Congress](#), Catherine Dale, Congressional Research Service, 6 December

[Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians](#), Susan G. Chesser, Congressional Research Service, 6 December

[Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan](#), Norwegian Refugee Council, November 2012

Arab Spring:

[NATO Military Training Facilities in Persian Gulf](#), *Global Research*, 22 December

NATO Review: The Arab Spring - what now? - what happened in the Arab Spring, what worked, what didn't and why



[Pictures of the revolution](#) - sometimes words don't capture history in quite the way a picture can. Some of the most striking photos drawn from the Arab Spring

uprisings are presented

[Libya's 2011 revolution ... in 2 minutes](#) - two minutes outlining the fall of a regime that had stood for 42 years



[Arab Spring - and now the morning after](#) - Barak Barfi travelled through the Arab Spring region and he tells how he saw different interpretations of what

freedom means, frustrations simply changing targets, and new problems replacing old ones. The regimes may have gone. But, he argues, the societies, structures and problems they created over decades haven't

[Squaring the circle in the Arab uprisings](#) - it was two

years that in a small roundabout in Egypt, called 'Liberation Square', a few hundred people gathered to protest against the government of Hosni Mubarak. Dr H.A. Hellyer analyses how 18 days later, that square would be etched into modern world history by its original Arabic name: Tahrir



[NATO's dealing with a different Gulf now](#) - what does the Arab Spring mean for NATO? Jean Loup Samaan looks at whether the Alliance needs to change its approach to Arab countries post-Arab Spring, how these changes could look and how to overcome obstacles



Counter-Terrorism:

[NATO efforts to identify non-traditional threats maturing, officials say](#), Brooks Tigner, *IHS Jane's*, 13 December

[NATO conference on critical infrastructure – 10 December 2012](#), NATO News, 10 December - NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division (ESCD) held its second annual conference entitled "The World in 2020 – Can NATO Protect Us? The Challenges to Critical Infrastructure"

Defence Budgets, Procurement and Private Military Companies:

[General Dynamics Canada Awarded Contract on NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Program](#), Canada News Wire, Press Release, 4 January

[Smart Pooling: State of Play in European Defence and Armaments Cooperation](#), Daniel Möckli, *CSS Analysis in Security Policy* No.126, December 2012 - as military budgets in Europe are shrinking, there is growing pressure to engage in defence and armaments cooperation. Concepts such as "Pooling and Sharing" or "Smart Defence" as well as a series of sub-regional initiatives aim to strengthen national military capabilities through pragmatic multinational cooperation. The author contends that while there are numerous challenges relating to "Smart Pooling", many countries in Europe have little choice but to make these projects work if they are to preserve the scope of action of their armed forces

[European Defense Trends 2012: budgets, regulatory frameworks, and the industrial base](#),

CSIS, December 2012 - this report constitutes the third iteration of a comprehensive assessment of European defence trends undertaken by the CSIS Defence-Industrial Initiatives Group. The report analyzes the demand side (topline and functional defence spending categories) for 37



European countries, the supply side (the European defence, security, and space industrial base), and the regulatory environment (at the European level) governing defence, between 2001 and 2011

[NATO's Senior Defense Economist on Security Despite Austerity - Part 2](#), *atlantic-community.org*, 21 December - Adrian Kendry responds to member questions about NATO capabilities, specialization, and other aspects of smart defence. He also explains NATO's commitment to energy efficiency and talks about resource wars and terrorist financing

[Building more effective institutions in South East Europe](#), NATO News, 19 December - a Tailored Building Integrity Programme has just been launched for South Eastern Europe, aimed at building more effective institutions. Developing such a programme had been identified as a priority by Allied leaders at the Chicago Summit in May

[Pooling Maritime Patrol Aircraft](#), NATO News, 18 December - since 2008, the German Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) P-3 C has been participating in EUNAVFOR ATALANTA. But they are not alone in the Gulf of Aden. NATO's operation "OCEAN SHIELD" is also fighting against piracy

to secure the sealines of communication. Together, all assets are taking part in exchanging information to stay tactically flexible in times of budget shortages and reduced platforms at sea (photo credit: NATO)



♣♣ [NATO's Senior Defense Economist on Security Despite Austerity - Part 1](#), *atlantic-community.org*, 13 December - Adrian Kendry answers questions from *atlantic-community.org* members about the security implications of the financial and economic crises. In the first part, he talks about potential threats to the stability of the Alliance, terrorist recruitment and defence spending levels (the latter a question from NATO Watch)

[Smart Defense Team Helps NATO Face Lean Times](#), US Defense Department, 13 December

[Afghan Contractors Feeling Drawdown Pinch](#), *NPR*, 9 December

[NATO Support for UN Anti-Corruption Day 9 December](#), NATO Press Release, 7 December

[Building Integrity Programme](#), official text, 7 December - strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity and reducing the risk of corruption in the defence and security sector 2012-2014

♣♣ [Buying US Weapons: Caveat Emptor Indeed](#), Giovanni de Briganti, *defense-aerospace.com*, 5 December

[Defence Specialization: Indispensable or Unachievable?](#) Alyson JK Bailes, *atlantic-community.org*, 27 November - logically, one of the best ways to get more bang for fewer bucks - while also deepening cooperation - should be for nations to specialize further in their defence roles on a basis of comparative advantage. Yet there are many obstacles

Drones:

[Rheinmetall demos laser that can shoot down drones](#), *BBC News*, 8 January

[European perspectives on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles](#), Myrto Hatzigeorgopoulos, *ISIS Europe ESR* 63, December 2012

[Royal Navy test flies new drone](#), *The Guardian*, 11 December - Navy to continue to test remote controlled aircraft to establish possible uses after successful first test flight

[Unmanned "drone" technology is vital, which is why we should be open about it](#), Kevan Jones, *Labour Uncut*, 11 December

[Air Force May Be Developing Stealth Drones in Secret](#), *Wired*, 8 December

[Youth Disrupted: Effects of U.S. Drone Strikes on Children in Targeted Areas](#), Brave New Foundation, December 2012

[Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(drones\): an introduction](#),

Louisa Brooke-Holland, UK House of Commons Library, *Standard Note*: SN06493, 5 December

[Revealed: US and Britain launched 1,200 drone strikes in recent wars](#), Chris Woods and Alice K Ross, *The Bureau of Investigative Journalism*, 4 December

[Neuron, Europe's First Stealth Drone 'Killer Robot', Makes Test Flight](#), *Huffington Post*, 3 December

Enlargement and Partnerships:

Armenia

[Allies+Armenia+Partners sitting at NATO headquarters](#), *Public Radio of Armenia*, 11 December

Azerbaijan

[Delegation of NATO Defence College visits ADA](#), *News.Az*, 17 December

Belarus

[Estonian Embassy new NATO contact point embassy in Belarus](#), *News of Belarus*, 3 January

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Helping former military personnel reintegrate into civilian life in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), NATO News, 19 December - since 2006 the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reforming its structure, focusing on downsizing the military and eliminating redundancy. But for many discharged personnel, military life is the only one they have known. Adjusting to civilian life can be difficult and securing consistent employment is one of the many challenges that they face

Georgia

[Anti-NATO demonstration in Georgia quashed](#), *Democracy and Freedom Watch*, 30 December

[Bilateral Briefs - NATO & Georgia](#), Atlantic Treaty Association, December 2012 - written by the Atlantic Council of Georgia, this briefing focuses on Georgia's relationship with NATO, and also explains the added value of strengthening regional security by supporting democracy in addition to highlighting Georgia's standing commitments to Smart Defence and Out of Area Operations

[Georgia: Making Cohabitation Work](#), *Europe Briefing* N°69, International Crisis Group, 18 December

[Building capacity to clear unexploded ordnance in Georgia](#), NATO News, 18 December - following the 2008 war between Georgia and Russia, Georgia faced the task of rebuilding affected areas of the country. On top of the reconstruction efforts, Georgia faced an additional problem: legacy minefields and extensive unexploded ordnance contamination. In response, Georgia turned to NATO for help. At the government's request, NATO designed and funded a project focused on strengthening the Georgian Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO's position towards arrests in Georgia has not changed](#), *Georgia Online*, 11 December

[Georgia: No Trading NATO Ambitions for Better Russia Ties](#), *RIA Novosti*, 10 December

[Saakashvili: NATO Was Ready To Offer Us MAP, Until...](#), *EurasiaNet*, 6 December

[A Truth Commission for Georgia](#), Anna Dolidze, and Thomas de WaalArticle, Carnegie Europe, 5 December

[Georgia must observe law in arrests - NATO head](#), *Reuters*, 5 December

Israel

[Israel to join NATO activities amidst Turkey tension](#), *The Jerusalem Post*, 23 December

[Turkey lifts veto on Israel's NATO activities despite frictions – report](#), *Russia Today*, 23 December

Serbia

[President on Kosovo resolution, NATO membership](#), *B92*, 28 December

[Serbia: soaring cancer rates due to NATO radioactive bombing](#), *ANSamed*, 12 December - drastic increases in leukemia, lymphoma between 2001-2010

[Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council pays respect to late Ambassador Milinkovic of Serbia](#), NATO News, 11 December - the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council ambassadorial meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of the Serbian Ambassador Branislav Milinkovic



[NATO chief 'saddened' by Serbian envoy's apparent suicide](#), *AFP/ You Tube*, 5 December

[Serbia's Nato envoy Branislav Milinkovic leaps to his death at Brussels airport](#), *The Independent*, 5 December

Ukraine

[NATO to support Ukraine's reforms despite its non-aligned status](#), *Kyiv Post*, 17 December

Gender:

[NATO officials attend high-level political military seminar on UNSCR 1325 in NATO-led Operations and Missions](#), NATO News, 21 December - NATO co-hosted a political-military seminar with the Swedish Government on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security which was held on 17-18 December in Stockholm

[A hundred days of promoting the role of women in peace and security](#), NATO News, 18 December -

"Throughout my career I have worked on challenging and interesting issues," says Mari Skåre, who was recently appointed as the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. "It is with great humility and honour that I have taken on this job, but

also with a sense of being very privileged at having the opportunity to promote such an important agenda" (photo credit: NATO)



Kosovo:

[Kosovo aims to form military force and join NATO](#), *Stars and Stripes*, 24 December

[NATO watches over tense peace in Kosovo](#), *Stars and Stripes*, 24 December

[U.S., NATO Forces Maintain Vigil in Kosovo](#), US Department of Defense, 20 December

[Canada Extends Commitment to NATO Mission in Kosovo](#), *MarketWire* (press release, 20 December

Libya:

[U.S.-Approved Arms for Libya Rebels Fell Into Jihadis' Hands](#), *New York Times*, 5 December

Maritime Security and Piracy:

[NATO warship thwarts pirate attack on tanker sailing to Muscat](#), *Muscat Daily*, 2 January

[Secretary General thanks Prime Minister of Djibouti for support against piracy](#), NATO News, 21 December - NATO Secretary General thanked the PM of Djibouti, Dileita Mohamed Dileita, for his country's support in the international fight against piracy during a meeting at NATO HQ

[World must not let up pressure on Somali pirates: NATO](#), *defenceWeb*, 19 December

[NATO: Somali Pirates Seized No Ships for 6 Months](#), *ABC News*, 17 December

[NATO Counter-Piracy Mission Making Real Progress](#), NATO News, 17 December - a combination of factors including stepped up naval patrols closer to shore is leading to a drop in pirate attacks off the Somali coast, said the former commander of NATO's counter-piracy mission

[The Gulf of Guinea: The New Danger Zone](#), International Crisis Group, *Africa Report* N°195, 12 December

Missile Defence:

[Romania, U.S. Sign Arrangements on Missile Defense Plan](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 December

[Iran Missile Work Likely to Impact Rollout of ICBM Interceptor: Ex-U.S. Envoy](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 December

[Secretary General condemns North Korea's rocket launch](#), NATO News, 12 December - following the concerns expressed by the North Atlantic Council on December 5 after North Korean authorities declared their intent to launch a rocket using ballistic missile technology, I strongly condemn North Korea's launch today



NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Brussels, 4-5 December

NATO Watch Briefing Paper:

[Red Lines and Deadlines: A Summary of the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brussels \(4-5 December 2012\)](#), NATO Watch Briefing Paper No.28, 7 December

Media reports:

[NATO considers future for Afghan support 05.12.12](#), *British Forces News/ You Tube*, 6 December

[NATO discusses Afghanistan's future after](#)

[troop withdrawal](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 5 December

[Clinton: NATO must 'step up' for Afghanistan](#), Al Jazeera, 5 December - US secretary of state tells alliance meeting in Brussels it is "crucial" for donor nations to fulfil pledges of \$4.1bn

[NATO calls on North Korea to cancel rocket launch](#), *Reuters*, 5 December

[Flowers, an Estonian pillow and an inflatable walrus: Nato waves goodbye to Hillary Clinton](#), *The Independent*, 5 December

[Syria: Nato agrees to deploy Patriot missiles in Turkey](#), *The Telegraph*, 4 December - NATO agreed to deploy Patriot missiles to defend Turkey as Britain warned Syria of "serious consequences" if chemical weapons were used

[Syria crisis: Nato approves Patriots for Turkey](#), *BBC News*, 4 December

[Brussels rendezvous: NATO assures Pakistan of strategic alliance](#), *The Express Tribune*, 4 December

NATO press releases and media briefings:

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 'Strengthening partnerships to face challenges', 5 December

[NATO Foreign Ministers praise Georgia's commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration](#), NATO Press Release, 5 December - NATO Foreign Ministers welcomed in Brussels the new Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidzé and looked forward to more cooperation in the context of the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC). During the meeting, Allies encouraged all parties in Georgia to keep up the momentum of the recent elections and to consolidate democratic progress

[North Atlantic Council expresses concern about North Korea's intent to launch a ballistic missile](#), NATO Press Release, 5 December

[NATO Foreign Ministers take forward work on post-2014 commitment](#), NATO News, 5 December - NATO Foreign Ministers took forward their Lisbon decision to contribute to the long-term sustainment of the Afghan national security forces (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO Foreign Ministers to show solidarity with Turkey](#), NATO News, 4 December - NATO Allies stand in full solidarity with Turkey and will show their determination to defend their Ally and deter any threats, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said ahead of a two-day meeting of foreign ministers

[NATO-Russia Council agrees on closer](#)



[cooperation](#), NATO News, 4 December

[NATO agrees to augment Turkey's air-defence capabilities](#), NATO Press Release, 4 December - NATO ministers of foreign affairs agreed to augment Turkey's air defence capabilities by deploying Patriot missiles

[NATO Foreign Ministers' statement on Patriot deployment to Turkey](#), Official Text, 4 December - the situation along NATO's south-eastern border and the repeated violations of Turkey's territory raise grave concern. As the North Atlantic Council made clear on June 26 and October 3, we stand with Turkey in the spirit of strong solidarity. We, the NATO foreign ministers, declare our determination to deter threats to and defend Turkey

[Press briefing on the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan \(NTM-A\)](#), NATO News, 3 December - with participation via video teleconference of Major General Jim Ferron, Commander, Canadian Mission and Deputy Commanding General, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and Major General M. Zahir Azimi, Afghan lead for the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan. The event was moderated by Chris Riley, Executive Officer for Afghanistan media operations

[Pakistani Foreign Minister visits NATO, holds talks with North Atlantic Council](#), NATO News, 3 December - NATO Secretary General welcomed Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar to NATO HQ for a discussion on issues of common interest, including stability in Afghanistan

[Foreign Ministers to focus on support for Turkey, partnerships and Afghanistan](#), NATO News, 3 December - Turkey's request for NATO to augment its air defence capabilities, cooperation with key partners Russia and Georgia, and progress in the Afghan mission top the agenda at the two-day December NATO Foreign Ministerial

NATO-Russia Relations:

[Russia Boosts Deployment of New ICBMs](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 December

[Russian NATO Transit Route Remains Unused, Raising Suspicion](#), *EurasiaNet*, 18 December

[NATO warns Russia against using energy as foreign policy weapon](#), *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 16 December

[It's in Russia's interests to ensure a very positive relationship with NATO countries – Rasmussen](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 16 December

[Anders Fogh Rasmussen: It's in Russia's interests to ensure a very positive relationship with NATO countries](#), *Interfax.com*, 15 December - NATO Secretary General interview to Interfax and *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper in the wake of a ministerial meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in Brussels in which he speaks about the results of the NRC meeting, prospects of NATO-Russia relations and the most pressing issues on the international agenda

[NATO, Russia Military Chiefs hold talks on Afghanistan, Ballistic Missile Defence and Syria](#), NATO News, 14 December - General Knud Bartels, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee, paid an official visit to Russia to boost military-to-military cooperation and develop a common understanding on issues of strategic interest with Colonel-General Valeriy Gerasimov, Chief of the Russian General Staff

[NATO's Volga Airport Hits Snarl](#), *Moscow Times*, 11 December

Nuclear Weapons:

[Experts: Outlook Bleak for Near-Term NATO-Russia Tactical Nuke Deal](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 7 January

[Fewer Russian Tactical Nukes Are Battle-Ready Than Widely Thought: Expert](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 20 December

Reform

[NATO needs a makeover](#), Sarwar Kashmeri, *The Hill*, 19 December

[Can NATO Get Its ACT Together? Alliance's Only US-Based Command Takes On New Role](#), *AOL Defense*, 14 December

[Training, Resource Sharing Boost NATO Transformation Initiatives](#), US Department of Defense Press Release, 13 December

♦♦ [It Is High Time for Congress to Focus on the 'O' in NATO](#), Sarwar Kashmeri, *Huffington Post*, 6 December



(US sailors exercise gangnam style on the deck of a ship at sea – photo credit: US Navy/ flickr)

Responsibility to Protect (R2P):

[Assisting States to Prevent Atrocities: Implications for Development Policy, Stabilization Assistance, and Post-Conflict](#)

[Peacebuilding](#), 53rd annual Strategy for Peace Conference, Stanley Foundation *Policy Dialogue Brief*, December 2012

[How the Two Main Principles for Protecting Civilians Actually Work](#), Ramesh Thakur, *PassBlue.com*, 10 December

[Improving Mass Atrocities Prevention: Guidelines for Effective and Legitimate Implementation of the Responsibility to Protect](#), Lars Brozus, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, December 2012

Scottish Independence and NATO Membership:

[Q&A: British MP Presses Scots on How Quickly U.K. Nukes May be Banned](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 10 December

Special Forces:

[Will special ops keep NATO relevant?](#) David Bosco, *Foreign Policy (blog)*, 12 December

[NATO special forces unit gets new home](#), *Stars and Stripes*, 12 December

[NATO inaugurates new HQ to combine allied special forces](#), *Calgary Herald*, 12 December

Syria Crisis:

(photo credit: ewixx/ flickr)

[Syrian Rebels Claim Ability to Manufacture Chemical Arms](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 7 January

[NATO calls Syrian Scud launches 'acts of a desperate regime'](#), *World Tribune*, 23 December

[NATO says Syria fired Scud-type missiles](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 21 December

[Syrians Fleeing Assad Flood Turkey as NATO Bolsters Border](#), *Bloomberg*, 19 December

[Arab League official rules out NATO's intervention in Syria](#), *Xinhua*, 18 December

♠♠ [The West May Regret Taking Sides In Syria](#), Paul Smyth, *atlantic-community.org*, 17 December - a popular revolt seeking political freedoms has become a civil war in which democratic objectives are increasingly sidelined. If Assad falls before an effective alternative government is available, a power vacuum may exist in which Islamist groups seek to rule the country. For women, liberals and minorities, life after Assad may not bring progress

[How U.S. Might Try to Avert Disaster in Attack on Syrian Chemical Sites](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 17 December

[NATO Allies Might Be Unprepared for Syria](#), *Defense News*, 17 December

[U.S. plans for possibility that Assad could lose control of chemical arms cache](#), *Washington Post*, 16 December

[Senior NATO official says Assad will go](#), *Reuters*, 14 December

[Russia, NATO: Assad could lose Syria to rebels \(+video\)](#), Elizabeth A. Kennedy and Vladimir Isachenkov, *Christian Science Monitor*, 13 December - opposition fighters have seized large swaths of territory in northern Syria along the border with Turkey and appear to be expanding their control outside of Damascus

[NATO chief believes Syrian government near collapse](#), *Reuters*, 13 December

[Russia satisfied with NATO assurance of non-involvement in Syria](#), *Global Times*, 13 December

[Syria fires Scud missiles at rebels - U.S., NATO officials](#), *Reuters*, 12 December

[The Syria Chemical Weapons Saga: The Staging of a US-NATO Sponsored Humanitarian Disaster?](#) Michel Chossudovsky, *Global Research*, 12 December

[U.S. Will Grant Recognition to Syrian Rebels, Obama Says](#), *New York Times*, 11 December



[Syrian "Rebels" establish Unified Military Command under De Facto NATO Jurisdiction](#), Oliver Campbell, *Global Research*, 10 December

[NATO Intervention in Syria Imminent?](#) Stephen

Lendman, *Global Research*, 9 December

[NATO's Patriot move is step to involvement in Syria: Russia](#), *Reuters*, 7 December

[Al Assad's Last Stand](#), Omar Lanrani, *Stratfor*, 6 December

[U.S. Anxiously Shaping Contingency Options for Syrian Chemical Arsenal](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 6 December

[Why Assad Won't Use His Chemical Weapons](#), Charles Blair, *Foreign Policy*, 6 December - and why you should still be worried.

[NATO should destroy Syria's chemical weapons. Now](#), Matt Gurney, *National Post*, 6 December

[Wider Chaos Feared as Syrian Rebels Clash With Kurds](#), *New York Times*, 6 December

[Syria Criticizes NATO Move on Patriot Missiles](#), *Time*, 6 December

[U.S. Intelligence Sees Potential CW Preparations at Multiple Syrian Sites](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 5 December

Transatlantic Cooperation:

[Europe in 2013: A Year of Decision](#), George Friedman, *Stratfor*, 3 January

[An Economic NATO Would Strengthen the U.S. and Europe](#), Robert Nolan, *US News and World Report (blog)*, 6 December

[Europe's Turn to Help Rebuild the Transatlantic Relationship](#), Judy Dempsey, *Carnegie Strategic Europe blog*, 3 December

[Emerging Security Challenges: A Glue for NATO and Partners?](#) Ioanna-Nikoleta Zyga, NATO Defense College (NDC - Rome), *Research Paper* 85, November 2012

[Military Capability Development in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy](#), Editors Jörg Hillmann and Constantinos Ch. Hadjisavvas, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU 2012 / Ministry of Defence, 2012

Transparency and Accountability:

[NATO-Russia Council publishes glossary on counter piracy](#), NATO News, 19 December - a new NRC Glossary on Counter Piracy has been published, and is now available for download. The Russian-English/English-Russian glossary was created to facilitate NRC cooperation in counter piracy - click [here](#) to download the glossary

[General Assistance: Why are civilian officials so much more secretive than the military?](#), Micah Zenko, *Foreign Policy*, 11 December

[NATO Archives exhibition 'Forging the Weapon: the Origins of SHAPE'](#), NATO News, 7 December - over the past decade, the NATO Archives, the SHAPE Historical Office, SHAPE Registry and Records, and SHAPE Information and Knowledge Management have been working together to digitize large numbers of microfilm reels containing classified historical documents originating from SHAPE

Upcoming Events:

[Is Europe Ready for an American Disengagement?](#)

8 January 2013, Brussels - a Citizen's Controversy with Sven Biscop, Director of the "Europe in the World"

Programme at the Egmont - Royal Institute of International Relations, and Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO

[58th General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association](#), Rome, Italy - 4-6 February 2013 - the topic of the General Assembly is NATO and the Future of Cooperative Security. Key points on the agenda will include: Middle East and

Mediterranean Cooperative Security, Modern Defense and Economic Development, and NATO 2020

[The Black Sea Region: Bringing Future Decision Makers Together in the Changing World](#), Armenian Atlantic Association, Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 March 2013 - the overall goal of the conference is to reinforce a dialogue between the current and next generations of stakeholders from the Black Sea Region countries and give them a floor for regional cooperation, by enabling a discussion, assessing the conflict management and security challenges in the region and identifying common obstacles

[Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting](#), Edinburgh, Scotland 17-19 April - the Scottish Parliament and people have expressed their opposition to nuclear weapons – and specifically to the UK basing its entire nuclear arsenal in Scotland. Scotland will be voting in a referendum for independence in 2014, and the Scottish desire to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone provides an opportunity to fundamentally challenge the UK's nuclear policies and practices – perhaps driving the UK toward complete nuclear disarmament. This meeting is being arranged in Scotland to demonstrate international solidarity and support for the Scottish anti-nuclear campaign – and for the global campaign for nuclear abolition.

[10th International Security Forum](#), Geneva, 22-24 April - The 10th International Security Forum: Facing a World of Transitions addresses the multiple transitions we face in today's international security environment. Whether political-military in nature – such as nuclear threat and disarmament or the question of geopolitical shifts – or issues touching human security – such as peace-building or dignity – they pose states unprecedented challenges. The 10th ISF also aims to shed light

on transitions that often succeed to stay off the global inter-state agenda or in which states may have little chances to interfere such as new global trans-nationalism



Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: darkmatter/flickr)

Belgium

[Secretary General thanks Belgium for its contribution as a reliable Ally](#), NATO News, 17 December - the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen congratulated Belgium for its important role in NATO-led operations during a meeting with the Belgian Prime Minister Elio di Rupo and Defence Minister Pieter De Crem

Canada

Culture of secrecy keeping Canadians in the dark, *The Star*, 22 December

Canada ready to join NATO coalition if chemical weapons used in Syria, *CTV News*, 10 December

France

Rice: French plan for Mali intervention is 'crap', Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy*, 11 December

France Insists No Plans to Cut Ballistic Missile Subs or Nuke Aircraft, *Global Security Newswire*, 7 December

♠♠ France and NATO, Laurent Fabius, *New York Times*, 5 December

Report For The President Of The French Republic On The Consequences Of France's Return To Nato's Integrated Military Command, On The Future Of Transatlantic Relations, And The Outlook For The Europe Of Defence, Hubert Védrine, 14 November 2012

Germany

Germany: The Abstention Champion, Oliver Krumme, *atlantic-community.org*, 10 December - Germany's foreign policy has been marked by not taking positions in crucial UN Security Council votes. Whenever there was a decision to make, it was almost certain for Germany to abstain

German Govt. OKs Fielding Patriots in Turkey, *Global Security Newswire*, 6 December

Berlin Approves Patriots for Turkey-Syria Border, *Spiegel Online*, 6 December

Italy

NATO southern command moves to high-tech campus, *Stars and Stripes*, 3 December

Lithuania

Lithuanian contingent began standby in NATO Response Force, *The Baltic Course*, 4 January

Netherlands

Dutch Patriot Missiles Depart for Turkey, *Global Security Newswire*, 7 January

NATO Secretary General thanks Dutch Prime Minister for commitment to Alliance, NATO News, 13 December - Rasmussen thanked the Netherlands for its commitment to the Alliance, and in particular its contribution of two Patriot batteries to augment Turkey's air defences, after talks with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte



Dutch Govt. Approves Deploying Patriots to Turkey, *Global Security Newswire*, 7 December

Poland

Poland becoming a 'regional hub for NATO', Andrew A. Michta, *Public Service Europe*, 4 December

Turkey

Nato deploying Patriot missiles to Turkey-Syria border, *BBC News*, 4 January (photo credit: DJ Lein/flickr)

US Patriot missile battery crews arrive in Turkey, *National Turk English*, 4 January

Turkey plays Israel-Egypt balance in NATO, Murat Yetkin, *Al Arabiya News*, 25 December

Turkey names sites for NATO Patriot missiles near Syria, *Reuters*, 21 December

NATO Spokesperson's statement on the deployment of Patriot missiles to Turkey, NATO News, 21 December

Turkey grapples with influx of Syrian refugees, *Boston Globe*, 20 December

Intelligence brief: The likely development of Turkish policy towards Syria, Steve Hathorn, *Open Briefing*, 19 December

Conference in Antalya highlights Alliance solidarity towards Turkey, NATO News, 19 December - high-level NATO officials met Turkish policy-makers and opinion leaders to discuss current issues on NATO's agenda

Envoy: Turkey Shares U.S. "Red Line" on Syrian Chemical Arms, *Global Security Newswire*, 18 December

NATO's Assistant SG: Turkey is a Very Important Regional Actor, *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, 17 December

Patriot Missiles Expected to be Operating in Turkey by End of January, *Global Security Newswire*, 13 December

Between NATO and Russia: The Pieces of Turkey's Puzzle, Gallia Lindenstrauss and Iftah Celniker, *Canada Free Press*, 11 December

Avoiding a Divorce: A Virtual EU Membership for Turkey, Sinan Ülgen, *Carnegie Paper*, December 2012 - the author writes that Turkey and the EU must deepen cooperation to reinvigorate their relationship and avoid an acrimonious separation

United Kingdom

[Hammond to put case for new Trident](#), *Financial Times*, 18 December

[Defence chief signals major UK military presence in Gulf](#), Richard Norton-Taylor, *The Guardian*, 18 December

[4,000 British troops to pull out of Afghanistan next year](#), *The Guardian*, 18 December - David Cameron's decision to speed up withdrawal endorsed by Barack Obama as NATO prepares for pull-out deadline

[Army's plans to support Syrian rebels](#), *The Guardian*, 11 December

[Troubled Astute submarine programme to get another £2.7bn](#), *The Guardian*, 10 December - MoD to plough extra cash into Astute-class hunter-killer submarines amid delays and technical problems

[Charities pairing ex-military staff with disadvantaged pupils get £1.9m](#), *The Guardian*, 7 December - extra education cash for charities is part of Michael Gove's ambition to boost military ethos in schools

[Defence gap of £2bn opens up](#), *Financial Times*, 5 December

[The UK and European defence: leading or leaving?](#) Sven Biscop, *International Affairs*, November 2012

United States

[John Brennan, Obama's drone warrior](#), Peter Bergen, *CNN*, 8 January

[Choice to Lead C.I.A. Faces a Changed Agency](#), *New York Times*, 7 January - President Obama nominated his chief counterterrorism advisor, John Brennan, as director of the CIA. He has been a vocal advocate of both the legality and morality of drone strikes, and advised Obama through the ramping up of the drone program in Pakistan in 2009 and 2010

[The U.S. Intelligence Community's New Year's Wish - Megatrends, Game-Changers, Black Swans, Tectonic Shifts, and a World Not That Different From 2012](#), Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 3 January

[Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds](#), National Intelligence Council, December 2012 – this report attempts to stimulate thinking about the rapid and vast geopolitical changes characterizing the world today and possible global trajectories over the next 15 years. It draws on in-depth research, detailed modelling and a variety of analytical tools drawn from public, private and academic sources

♠♠ [An All-American Nightmare - Why Zero Dark Thirty Won't Settle the Torture Question or Purge Torture From the American System](#), Peter Van Buren, *TomDispatch.com*, 18 December

♠♠ [The Visible Government - How the U.S. Intelligence Community Came Out of the Shadows](#), Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 16 December

[Picking Up a \\$170 Billion Tab - How U.S. Taxpayers Are Paying the Pentagon to Occupy the Planet](#), David Vine, *TomDispatch.com*, 11 December

[Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress](#), Ronald O'Rourke, Congressional Research Service, 10 December

[Navy Ohio Replacement \(SSBN\(X\)\) Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress](#), Ronald O'Rourke, Congressional Research Service, 10 December



[Mr. President, Tear Down This Wall - Washington's Iranian Future](#), Pepe Escobar, *TomDispatch.com*, 6 December

[US government's handling of state secrets is 'outmoded', says report](#), *The Guardian*, 6 December - Public Interest Declassification Board urges Obama to shake up 'outmoded and unsustainable' security classification system

[The Barack Obama Story \(Updated\) - How a Community Organizer and Constitutional Law Professor Became a Robot President](#), Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 4 December

♠♠ [Transforming the Security Classification System](#), Report to the President by the Public Interest Declassification Board, November 2012

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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