



# Smart Defence in practice

By Nigel Chamberlain,  
NATO Watch

During a visit to the Pápa airbase in Hungary on 1 July, where [NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability](#) (SAC) has been based since 2009, NATO Secretary General Rasmussen stressed the importance of such multinational cooperation to improve defence capabilities.

The SAC is a collaboration between ten

NATO Allies (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and the United States) and two partners (Finland and Sweden). The three Boeing C-17 heavy transport aircraft support the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and have been used in other disaster-relief missions. However, [SAC is independent of NATO command](#) and flight hours and mission assignments are determined by a steering committee chaired

by a general officer of the [United States Air Force](#).

In October 2012 the [Hungarian Government and NATO](#) agreed to upgrade the Pápa base into a logistics hub suitable for receiving both civilian and military freight aircraft. Hungarian minister of Defence, Mr. Csaba Hende told reporters that his ministry's main objective is to make up for failures of the past 20 years and strengthen Hungary's military capabilities on offer to NATO.

The Secretary General later met Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in Budapest and commended him for his very strong commitment to the transatlantic Alliance and congratulated Hungary on assuming the presidency of the [Visegrad Group](#). He said:

*Such cooperation benefits NATO and it benefits Europe. Such*



A C-17 heavy transport aircraft

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# Editorial: 'Zero Option' for Afghanistan - a realistic possibility?

Prospects of an Afghan-US Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) being signed this year have dimmed to the extent that it might never be signed, thus again raising the possibility of the 'Zero Option' – no residual US force and no 'Resolute Support' for NATO to enact post-2014.

On 23 September NATO Watch reported in a [News Brief](#) that negotiations had run into a roadblock for several reasons, including a Status of Forces Agreement which would define the role and shape of a US military presence and the legal status of US Special Forces and civilian trainers. However, the *New York Times* reports that [agreement has been reached](#) on this issue.

It rather looks as if the Obama Administration has decided to proceed with planning for January 2015, with or without an agreement with President Karzai who has indicated that he is not willing to sign anything that he perceives to be against Afghan interests.

With the possibility of there now being no 'Resolute Support' to plan for, NATO's position, and the wider international financial support it has worked to build, must be jeopardised. Two seemingly intractable issues remain:

- Afghanistan's insistence that the United States guarantee its security.
- President Karzai's refusal to allow American forces to keep searching in Afghanistan for operatives of Al Qaeda and request for intelligence information to be passed to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

American officials have apparently rejected both Afghan proposals as a security guarantee could result in cross border confrontation with Pakistan and it is well-known just how closely the US guards its intelligence information.

In a wide-ranging interview with *Associated Press* on 6th October, [President Obama](#) said:

*So, if in fact we can get an agreement that makes sure that US troops are protected, makes sure that we can operate in a way that is good for our national security, then I'll certainly consider that. If we can't, we will continue to make sure that all the gains we've made in going after al*

*-Qaida we accomplish, even if we don't have any US military on Afghan soil.*

The Administration has apparently instructed Ambassador Cunningham to try to reach agreement this month, and possibly into November. The United States wants to keep using Special Operations Forces and drones to target known insurgents, a tactic President Karzai has lost faith in (mainly due to the extent of civilian casualties) and to which he is unwilling to give an open-ended commitment (mainly due to the fear of lost sovereignty).

Does the promotion of the threat of the 'Zero Option' mean that it is under due consideration in Washington or is it, perhaps, being utilised as a means of pressuring Kabul into signing a Bilateral Security Agreement which it would not feel best served its national interest? And this all raises the question of what sort of nation Afghanistan is going to look like into 2015 and beyond – hopefully not too much like Iraq or Libya.

## Review: 'The Taliban at war: inside the Helmand insurgency, 2004–2012'

by Theo Farrell and Antonio Giustozzi

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Reviewed by Nigel Chamberlain, NATO Watch

### Background

NATO is preparing to withdraw the last of its combined military forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and appears confident that the transition process is going well, with an increasingly capable Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) leading combat operations. A new, insightful [article published by Chatham House](#), the Royal Institute of International Affairs informs us that the Taliban insurgency shows little sign of abating and is clearly planning a return to a position of power and influence in some regions of Afghanistan, if not the entire country.

Ten years ago the Taliban appeared to have been defeated. By January 2002 the international community had agreed to provide extensive assistance to stabilize and rebuild the Afghan state. By mid-2002, US and British task forces were chasing the last remnants of the Taliban out of the country and hunting down Al-Qaeda terrorists. However, they regrouped, recruited and started to return to Helmand Province in small numbers, followed by larger groups from 2004 onwards.

Following battlefield setbacks in 2006 and 2007, the Taliban changed their tactics. In 2009 and 2010, a US Marine Corp (USMC) arrived to support the existing British task force, taking the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commitment to 20,000 troops in Helmand. In late 2009 the USMC launched Operation Khanjar, a major assault against Taliban strongholds in southern districts of Nawa, and in Garmser. This released British forces to concentrate in central Helmand.

In February 2010 ISAF and ANSF launched a massive offensive to push the Taliban out of central Helmand. Operation Moshtarak involved simultaneous helicopter borne assaults by British and Afghan forces into Nad-e Ali and by USMC and Afghan forces into Marjah. Taliban leadership in Helmand was also targeted by US and British Special Forces in a kill/capture campaign of growing intensity. Consequently, over 2009 and 2010 the Taliban withdrew from the more densely populated, flat areas near the watercourses, but maintained a presence in all of Helmand's districts, basing their combat groups in the outlying sparsely populated areas on the edge of the desert in Marjah, Nad-e Ali, Musa Qala, Garmser and Nahr-e Seraj.

The Taliban were also forced out of much of Sangin's Alokozai territory, but their presence in Kajaki and Nawzad was less strongly affected. For a while the Taliban maintained underground operations even in the more populated areas of central Helmand garrisoned by ISAF and ANSF, but gradually their underground network wore out under the weight of the government security operations.

### Methodology

The authors, Theo Farrell and Antonio Giustozzi, set about answering the two questions of **how** the Taliban returned and **why** they have not been defeated via a detailed study of the Taliban themselves and their activities in Helmand Province where British Forces were deployed in 2006. Their research findings are based on:

- 53 interviews with Taliban commanders and fighters in Helmand from autumn 2011 to spring 2012;
- 49 interviews carried out with Taliban members in other parts of Afghanistan over the same period; and
- 58 interviews with local elders in Helmand and elsewhere who are not members of the Taliban.

Some of the interviews in Helmand with Taliban cadres and elders were free-flowing, but most were based on questionnaires. Most of the interviews were carried out by Afghan researchers, typically journalists by trade, who were organized in three different teams, without contact with each other. Two experts on the Afghan insurgency, both with years of field experience in Helmand, independently assessed the reliability of interview transcripts. Triangulation from multiple interviews increased the reliability of the data. Single interviews were not used to make a definitive statement about the Taliban.

## Key findings

1. Local support for the Taliban, although somewhat eroded, is still strong in Helmand.
2. The Taliban are planning to retake areas of Helmand as ISAF forces withdraw.
3. The British presence and tactics in Helmand have been counter-productive.
4. The Taliban have regrouped and restructured to some effect with greater support from Quetta in Pakistan.
5. Heightened operations by ISAF and ANSF have limited the Taliban's ability to strike against them.
6. Taliban casualties in the field may be around 20%.
7. Friction between Quetta and Peshawar appears to have reduced the Taliban's ability to maintain a strong presence in Helmand.
8. Problems remain with the quality of Afghan soldiers and police, and with endemic corruption in the Afghan security forces and significant gaps remaining in their capability.
9. Heightened distrust between Kabul and Washington has undermined prospects for an orderly transition.
10. The prospects of the ANSF holding Helmand are not high.

The authors found an insurgency that is driven both by a strong unifying strategic narrative and purpose—jihad against foreign invaders—and by local conflict dynamics: rivalry between kinship groups and competition over land,

water and drugs.

Taliban resilience was shown to be based on primarily voluntary recruitment and an increasingly local membership profile. While at the same time, local support for the insurgency has been worn down by the human cost of the war and the ability of the insurgency to extract sufficient material support from local sources has been undermined by the success of the ISAF campaign and the increasing presence of ANSF.

The findings demonstrate how the Taliban crept back into Helmand with small vanguard groups preparing the way from 2004–05 for larger groups to follow. By arriving with insufficient force, by aligning themselves with local corrupt power-holders, by relying on firepower to keep insurgents at bay and by targeting the poppy crop, the British made matters worse in Helmand. They alienated the population, mobilized local armed resistance, and drew in foreign fighters seeking jihad.

The largely decentralized insurgency, comprising fighting groups attached to various (often rival) mahaz, has retarded the tactical effectiveness and strategic flexibility of the Taliban. The Taliban leadership has responded to growing military pressure with increasing centralization, the militarization of its shadow government and the professionalization of field units. Not all Taliban reforms have worked. Early efforts to modify the existing mahaz-based structure proved insufficient, hence necessitating the introduction of greater centralization. The introduction of a system of rotation of field commanders also failed.

The researchers found evidence of the growing power of the Quetta military commission and its ability to exert influence in the field through its district military commissioners. The military commission directed the shift in insurgent tactics, which it is successfully supporting through a new training regime. The Taliban shadow government appears to have lost influence in the face of the rising authority of the military commission on the one hand and, on the other, the increasing Afghan Government presence in Helmand.

The Taliban leadership has demonstrated a determination to maintain a presence throughout Helmand, even if the majority of local Taliban fronts are no longer able to sustain themselves off the civilian population as they were doing up to 2009. Taliban in southern and central Helmand—in Garmser, Marjah, Nad-e Ali and Nahr-e Saraj—now depend on material support from the Quetta

shura. One commander from Garmser observed that most of his supplies came from Pakistan and he could get only food locally.

In northern Helmand—in Sangin, Musa Qala and Kajaki—the Taliban are able to obtain sufficient funds for weapons and supplies from opium zakat (tax) at harvesting time. At all other times the Taliban are dependent on funds and supplies from Pakistan. Thus, across Helmand, the Taliban leadership has been stepping in to fill the gap created by reduced taxation and in-kind support from the villagers. Despite the decrease in the Taliban presence in Helmand as a whole, the numbers remain high by the standards of Afghan population density, and the logistical demands of supporting such a force in a sparsely populated area and under close ISAF watch are considerable. This suggests that the Taliban leadership still considers Helmand of strategic importance.

The survey suggests Taliban fatalities for 2011–12 at 20 per cent in Helmand. Continued resilience in the face of such heavy casualties may be an indication of the motivation of the cadres and fighters, and the ability of the Taliban to socialize recruits into the organization. Yet the researchers suggest that the political friction between Quetta and Peshawar appears to have reduced the Taliban's ability to maintain a stronger presence in Helmand. An outflow of Taliban combatants was reported by various sources in Helmand, suggesting a degree of demoralization, a logistical inability to maintain the same number of men in arms, or a combination of the two.

ISAF began to transfer primary responsibility for security in Helmand to ANSF in June 2011, starting with Lashkar Gah where residents reported having confidence in the Afghan National Army (ANA). But problems remain with the quality of Afghan soldiers and police, and with endemic corruption in the Afghan security forces. Corruption has an adverse impact on public confidence in the police, which remains low in Helmand. A high rate of desertion in the ANA compounds these problems. Significant gaps remain in ANSF capability, especially in logistics, intelligence and special forces.

ISAF planners expect the Taliban to mount an increasing challenge to Afghan army and police units in order to erode the confidence and unity of the ANSF. Growing tension between the United States and President Karzai is making a difficult transition process that much harder and the prospects of the ANSF holding Helmand are not high.



# News, Commentary and Reports:



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

## News

[Hamid Karzai on failings of Nato's Afghan mission](#), *BBC News*, 7 October

[America's Longest War](#), *National Journal*, 7 October—the Afghanistan war has become a forgotten war. If there was ever a time to pay attention, it's now

[Afghan leader says NATO air strike killed five civilians](#), *Reuters*, 6 October

[Impasse With Afghanistan Raises Prospect of Total U.S. Withdrawal in 2014](#), *New York Times*, 4 October

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[U.S. ready to begin major drawdown of troops, equipment from Afghanistan](#), *McClatchy*, 19 September

[Airmen will stay in Afghanistan for 'Resolute Support'](#), *Air Force Times*, 19 September

[NATO to investigate drone strike after Afghans say civilians died](#), *Reuters*, 19 September

[Afghanistan commitment to human rights waning -U.N.](#), *Reuters*, 17 September

[NATO exit may trigger 'proxy war' in Afghanistan](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 16 September—NATO's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 is likely to have deep implications for South Asia. Experts say tensions between India and Pakistan might intensify, should the Afghan political reconciliation process fail

[Female Afghan Police Commander Dies After Shooting](#), *New York Times*, 16 September

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[More female police officers are needed to end violence against women in Afghanistan](#), *The Independent*, 10 September—Afghanistan has only one female police officer for every 10,000 women

[Pakistan decides to hold talks with Taliban](#), *Pajhwok Afghan News*, 9 September

[Karzai condemns NATO airstrike](#), *AFP*, 9 September

[Afghans, NATO Disagree On Air Strike](#), *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 8 September

[Afghans claim nine civilians were killed in Nato airstrike on truck](#), *The Independent*, 8 September—the organisation has denied the report and insists the dead were all 'enemy forces'

[Taliban bombers hit Afghanistan War-dak intelligence HQ](#), *BBC News*, 8 September

[Afghan police deaths double as international troops exit](#), *CNN*, 3 September

[Afghan forces suffering too many casualties, says top Nato commander](#), *The Guardian*, 2 September—police and army may need west's support for years, says General Joseph Dunford, as weekly death toll tops 100

[Official: Taliban Violence Unlikely to Threaten Afghan Transitions](#), *Voice of America*, 1 September

[Negotiations Advance On Crucial U.S.-Afghan Security Agreement](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 23 August

[Spokesman: NATO Has Closed About 700 Bases So Far in Afghanistan](#), *Defense News*, 21 August

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[ISAF Chief Briefs Reservists on Afghan Progress, Future](#), *American Forces Press Service*, 8 August

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[Five Afghan police accidentally killed in U.S. air strike](#), *Reuters*, 1 August

[NATO vows better cleanup of unexploded munitions as it closes Afghan bases](#), *MyrtleBeachOnline*, 31 July

[Afghan civilian casualties jump by 23 per cent](#), *The Telegraph*, 31 July—a surge in Taliban attacks as security is handed to local forces in Afghanistan has reversed a recent decline in civilian casualties, according to a UN report

[Report Cites Afghan Security Forces Gains, Progress](#), *US Department of Defense News Release*, 30 July

[Afghan Women's Rights Face Uncertain Future](#), *Voice of America*, 30 July

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[Despite Gains, Leader of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan Says Troops Must Stay](#), *New York Times*, 29 July

[NATO commander says post-2014 Afghan security deal is critical but October not a deadline](#), *Associated Press*, 26 July

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[Afghan Customs Fines Hike Cost of US Military Pullout](#), *Defense News*, 19 July

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[Afghan army struggles with lack of reach](#), *Washington Post*, 10 July

[NATO soldier killed in Afghan 'insider attack'](#), *AFP*, 9 July

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[Norway threatens to cut Afghan aid](#), *AFP*, 7 July

[Nato commander Philip Breedlove on post-Afghan future](#), Jonathan Marcus, *BBC News*, 3 July—as NATO's decade-long mission in Afghanistan begins to wind down, one of the alliance's senior military leaders discusses what the future holds

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[Nearly 300 Afghan police killed in 1 month as casualties continue to mount](#), *Washington Post*, 1 July

[David Cameron and army divided over Afghanistan role after 2014](#), *The Guardian*, 29 June—despite military's fears, PM stands firm on security arrangements after British leave

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[Obama, Karzai 'reaffirm' Afghan-led peace process with Taliban – White House](#), *euronews*, 26 June

[Taliban attack Afghan presidential palace in Kabul](#), *Hindustan Times*, 25 June

[Taliban's Divided Tactics Raise Doubts Over Talks](#), *New York Times*, 25 June

[Afghan air force will need NATO aid until 2017](#), *Washington Times*, 23 June

[NATO service member, 2 policemen die in Afghan attacks; 18 militants reported killed](#), *Washington Post*, 22 June

[Talking to the Taliban](#), *The Economist*, 22 June—Peace in Afghanistan is distant but not impossible

[NATO chief hopes Afghan-led peace talks will start soon](#), *Reuters*, 20 June

[Scrapping equipment key to Afghan drawdown](#), *Washington Post*, 19 June—more than 170 million pounds worth of vehicles and other military equipment have been shredded, cut, and crushed into scrap metal as the US military prepares to withdraw all combat forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Because complicated rules govern equipment donations to other countries, and few would even be able to retrieve it from Afghanistan, military planners have destroyed equipment worth more than \$7 billion

[NATO Secretary General welcomes Afghan transition announcement](#), *NATO News*, 18 June—"I welcome President Karzai's announcement of the fifth and final group of Afghan provinces, cities and districts to undergo transition in the coming months. This decision marks an important milestone, when Afghan soldiers and police will take the lead for security across the country"

## Commentary and Reports

♦♦ [The Forgotten War - 12 Years in Afghanistan Down the Memory Hole](#), Ann Jones, *TomDispatch.com*, 1 October

[After ISAF: Afghanistan's make or break year](#), *SDA Report*, September 2013—the future of Afghanistan rests in the hands of the youth and women, declared speakers at a debate organised by the SDA together with Friends of Europe and NATO on 16 September. The panel, composed of MPs and representatives of civil society from Afghanistan, emphasised that not only security, but also political and economic issues are central to the 2014 transition

[How and Why the U.S. and NATO Should Mitigate Election Violence in Afghanistan](#), Patrick Quirk, *GMF Blog*, 30 September

[The Next Congo: Regional Competition for Influence in Afghanistan in the Wake of NATO Withdrawal](#), Antonio Giustozzi, *Afghanistan Regional Forum* No. 10, Elliott School of International Affairs, September 2013

[What NATO Must Do After ISAF](#), Felix Seidler, *atlantic-community.org*, 23 August—NATO still has an important role to play, even if its duties in Afghanistan are winding down. In light of the civil war in Syria and tension between Turkey, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Israel in regards to offshore gas, there should be a NATO maritime presence on the Eastern Mediterranean. Russia's first naval task force in the Mediterranean in decades is also cause for a NATO show of strength in the region, and NATO should maintain its naval presence at the Horn of Africa

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[Out of sight, out of mind – a rotten way to quit a war](#), Philip Stephens, *Financial Times*, 8 August—the west's errors in Afghanistan – strategic, political and military – are too legion to list

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[Failing Transition: The New 1230 Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan](#), Anthony Cordesman, *CSIS*, 5 August

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[How to Save the War in Afghanistan](#), Anthony Cordesman, *Real Clear World*, 24 July

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[What Will NATO Leave Behind? Considering the Legacy of the War in Afghanistan](#), George P.R. Benson-Patterson, *Atlantic Council of Canada*, 12 July

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[The Doctrine of Failure in Afghanistan: Rethinking nation building and the punitive expedition](#), Louis DeAnda, *DefenceIQ*, 28 June

♦♦ [Forget Nato v the Taliban. The real Afghan fight is India v Pakistan](#), William Dalrymple, *The Guardian*, 26 June—Afghanistan's old ethnic conflict has become a proxy war for the bitter feud between the region's two nuclear powers

[Afghanistan's Parties in Transition](#), International Crisis Group, *Asia Briefing* N°141, 26 June

[The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace](#)

[and security](#), UN General Assembly / Security Council, June 2013

[Summary of DFID's Work in Afghanistan 2011-2015](#), DFID, June 2013

[Talking to the Taliban—Hope over History?](#) International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and the New America Foundation, June 2013—provides a history of previous attempts to negotiate with Afghan insurgents during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s, and negotiations with the Taliban since the start of the NATO mission there in 2001. It explains why previous negotiations have repeatedly failed to deliver any success or political breakthrough. It argues that attempts to talk to the Tali-

ban in recent years have been characterised by wishful thinking and a lack of strategic direction. While history suggests that a viable or sustainable peace settlement will be extremely difficult to achieve, the first thing that negotiators should do is to learn from the failures which have characterised previous efforts at peace talks

[Europe, Afghanistan, and the transatlantic relationship after 2014](#), Erik Brattberg, SIPRI May 2013

[Decoding Pakistan's 'Strategic Shift' in Afghanistan](#), Moeed Yusuf, SIPRI May 2013

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[Russia's arctic military moves seen as NATO missile shield response](#), UPI.com, 17 September

[What Sept. 11 Means for NATO and the Arctic](#), Brooke Smith-Windsor, *Defense News*, 8 September

[Report Review: "Putting the N back into NATO: A High North Policy Framework for the Atlantic Alliance?"](#) Georgi Ivanov, Atlantic Council of Canada, 19 August

[Putting the 'N' back into NATO: A High North policy framework for the Atlantic Alliance?](#) Brooke A. Smith-Windsor, NATO Defence College Research Paper No.94, July 2014—since the end of the Cold War, with the exception of its air policing mission in Iceland, NATO largely has been kept out of the defence and security equation in the High North. With five member states possessing northern circumpolar geography, and a host of others increasingly engaged in a region which falls within the Alliance's treaty area, the question is why? Shouldn't NATO have a bigger role in the region? This paper provides some answers, assesses the consequences, and makes the case for a potential policy rethink in one of the most rapidly changing areas on earth

[NORAD in the Arctic: A real option for Canada?](#) Andrew Chisholm, Atlantic Council of Canada, 10 July

[In cold climes, Russians and Norwegians warm to each other](#), AFP 24 June

[UK and 'mini-NATO' for the Arctic: can it work?](#) *The World Outline*, 23 June

[Fire on Ice: Russia's new Arctic brigades](#), *Open Briefing*, 21 June — Russia first publicly announced plans

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[NATO and Chemical Warfare: Adapting and Responding to Changing Security Threats](#), Hanna Murray, Atlantic Council of Canada, 16 August

[U.S. And Russia At Odds On European Treaty](#), Amy J. Nelson, *International Business Times*, 8 August

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[Transnational Terrorism: Reasons that US and NATO need to remain involved in the Middle East](#), Krista Burns, The Atlantic Council of Canada, 19 June

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[Rise of the Robots: NATO 'bots Talking to One Another](#), *Defense News.com*, 12 July

[NATO reveals 2,500 cyberattacks on its computers in 2012](#), *Computer Business Review*, 11 July

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[NATO Meeting to Address Alliance Cybersecurity and Defense](#), Sharon L. Cardash, *Security Debrief*, 1 July

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[BlackBerry 10 Receives NATO Approval for Restricted Communications](#), *IT Business Net*, 1 October

[NATO To Offer €1 Billion in Business Opportunities](#), *Defense News*, 25 September—A missile defense contract will kick off a series of NATO business opportunities expected to be worth more than €1 billion (US \$1.35 billion) over 18 months

[Former RCAF commander to head defence giant Lockheed Martin Canada](#), *Brandon Sun*, 25 September—the former commander who led NATO forces through the 2011 bombing and blockade of Libya has been appointed to head up the Canadian operations of Lockheed Martin, the manufacturer of the troubled F-35 fighter

[NATO adopts videoconference technology for delegates](#), *Washington Post*, 19 September

[Golden Eye-style energy beam is developed by Nato scientists](#), *The Telegraph*, 12 September—an energy beam that can be fired to disable vehicles and electronic devices has been developed by NATO scientists

[Lockheed Martin Selected To Design Network Infrastructure For New NATO Headquarters](#), *Digital Journal*, 11 September

[NATO chief calls for closer European cooperation on defence](#), *EurActive.com*, 3 September

['Smart Defence' keeping NATO fit for the future](#), NATO News, 14 August—NATO Allies have successfully completed the first of 29 ongoing multina-



tional Smart Defence projects which are to help ensure that NATO remains fit for the future. The project, to develop a multinational logistics partnership on helicopter maintenance in Afghanistan, was part of the initial batch of projects launched by NATO leaders at their Chicago Summit

[Franco Frattini: "It's the economy, stupid"](#), NATO Review, August 2013

[NATO risks unity over emerging technologies divide](#), Eddie Walsh, *Al-Jazeera*, 10 August—converging technologies are introducing new security challenges for NATO, and it's struggling with how to respond

[NATO needs defence spending to keep edge - commander says](#), *Reuters*, 24 July

[Building integrity in defence budgeting and financing](#), NATO News, 1 July—more than 65 civilian and military leaders and experts took part in a professional development workshop on "Integrity in defence budgeting and financing". They examined the issues of professional integrity and developing best practices in financial management in the defence sector. Hosted by the MoD of Serbia in Belgrade from 18-20 June 2013 and conducted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 'Smart Defence at its best', 1 July

[The Age of Gloom? Implications for Key NATO Armies](#), Ben Barry, *RUSI Newsbrief*, 24 June

## Drones:

[NATO's New Eyes in the Sky](#), *ISN*, 24 September

[Predator Drones 'Useless' in Most Wars, Top Air Force General Says](#), John Reed, *Foreign Policy*, 19 September

[Nato wants EU countries to buy more drones](#), *EU Observer*, 19 September

[NATO chief urges Europe to fill drone, aircraft gaps](#), *Reuters*, 18 September

[UK drones three times more likely than US to fire in Afghanistan](#), *Bureau of Investigative Journalism*, 6 September

[Spending for unmanned aerial vehicles \(UAVs\) to double over next 10 years worldwide, says 2013 Teal Group fore-](#)

*I see Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the secretary general of NATO, is urging European members to **spend more on defense**. This is something that NATO secretary generals have been saying for at least 20 years. I covered a lot of their press conferences, knowing that what they said was meaningless, or worse. Then I went out for a good dinner in Brussels, feeling a bit guilty and glad the food was on an expense account.*

Tom Ricks, '[Sh\\*t NATO Leaders say](#)', *Foreign Policy*, 23 September 2013

[cast](#), *Avionics Intelligence*, 18 August

[Poland to contribute €40 million to NATO drone program](#), *Warsaw Business Journal*, 6 August

[How Buck McKeon created a global drone enterprise](#), Tara McKelvey, *BBC News Magazine*, 2 August

[Is Congressional oversight tough enough on drones?](#) Alice Ross, *Bureau of Investigative Reporting*, 1 August

[Kerry, in Pakistan, Expresses Optimism on Ending Drone Strikes Soon](#), *New York Times*, 1 August

[New view of drone death toll](#), Peter Bergen and Jennifer Rowland, *CNN*, 26 July

[The Drone Gender Gap: Big Differences in How Men and Women View Strikes](#), *Wired*, 26 July

[U.S. military drone surveillance is expanding to hot spots beyond declared combat zones](#), *Washington Post*, 21 July

[Judge Challenges White House Claims on Authority in Drone Killings](#), *New York Times*, 19 July

[America's Global Image Remains More Positive than China's, But Many See China Becoming World's Leading Power](#), Report by the Pew Research Center, 18 July—found that the Obama administration's use of drones faces broad global opposition. In 31 of the 39 countries surveyed, at least half of the population opposes the drone campaign, and in 12 of those 31, opposition is as high as 80%. The only countries surveyed where a majority supports the strikes are Israel (64%), the US itself (61%), and Kenya (56%). Among other things, the report also notes that approval of the program differs sharply along gender lines, and that double-digit gender gaps were found in Australia, Canada, South Korea, Uganda, and the US, as well as six of the eight EU nations polled

[Robots tested with NATO allies at Fort Benning](#), *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, 17 July

[Demand for Maritime UAVs to remain sky high into 2018](#), Richard de Silva, *DefenceIQ*, 15 July

[This Drone Just Made History. But Now Where Does it Go?](#) Gordon Lubold and John Reed, *Foreign Policy*, 10 July

[U.S. Drone Strike in Pakistan Kills at Least 16](#), *New York Times*, 3 July

[Study: US drone strikes more likely to kill civilians than US jet fire](#), *NBC News*, 2 July—Drone strikes, billed by President Barack Obama as tactically surgical and less deadly to civilians than conventional air power, are 10 times more likely to cause innocent casualties than bombs or missiles unleashed from US jets, according to a new study based on classified military documents

[Six-month update: US covert actions in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia](#), *Bureau of Investigative Journalism*, 1 July—the number of reported civilian deaths caused by the CIA's drone campaign in Pakistan is at an all-time low. The drone strikes are at their lowest level since early 2008, and the average number of people killed in each strike has also fallen sharply over the last few years (also see [data from the New America Foundation](#))

[General Atomics Developing Reaper Variant to Meet NATO/European Standards](#), Jorge Benitez, *NATO Source (blog)*, 28 June



### Wide Gender Divide on Drone Strikes

% Approve of U.S. drone strikes

	Male	Female	Gap
	%	%	
Japan	41	10	-31
Czech Rep.	47	17	-30
Canada	57	28	-29
Australia	58	30	-28
Germany	58	33	-25
Spain	34	9	-25
Britain	51	27	-24
Poland	45	26	-19
U.S.	70	53	-17
France	52	38	-14
S. Korea	38	24	-14
Uganda	49	36	-13

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## Energy Security:

[Energy security: a major factor in international security](#), NATO News, 9 September

[President opens NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence in Vilnius](#), Lithuania Tribune, 7 September

[NATO energy security centre to be officially opened in Vilnius](#), Lithuania Tribune, 3 September

[NATO Armed Forces Embrace Renewable Energy](#), Environment News Service, 11 July

[Europe's Energy Security: Options and Challenges to Natural Gas Supply Diversification](#), Michael Ratner, Paul Belkin, Jim Nichol and Steven Woe-hrel, Congressional Research Service, 11 July

[Armies get smart on energy](#), NATO News, 8 July—energy costs are a significant drain on defence budgets. This could impact on the resources available for Allies to acquire and maintain defence capabilities as well as limit their capacity to undertake military operations. Reducing the energy footprint of operations is a priority. NATO and individual Allies are working on alternative energy sources and developing multinational 'smart energy' projects

## Enlargement and Partnerships:

NATO Review, July 2013:

[Why partners matter: four foreign ministers explain—What are partners? And why are they important?](#) NATO Review asked four foreign ministers past and present to explain why partners have a key role in security, where they can help and what the partners get out of their involvement.

[The changing Arctic: how involved should NATO be?](#) A global challenge requires a global approach. And the melting of the Arctic ice is certainly an issue whose effects will be felt around the world. But how much is this a NATO issue? What role could – or should – the Alliance play? NATO Review interviews the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Espen Barth Eide, to see why he invited NATO to take a closer look at the issue.

[Ashton and Paloméros: why the EU and NATO need partners](#)—NATO Review asks two of NATO and the EU's top officials how they see partnerships. And whether they could see a way to partnering with each other

more.

[Ireland: dealing with NATO and neutrality](#) - Ireland has been a partner of NATO since the 1990s. So how has this sat with the country's famed neutral status? And what benefit does it bring to either side? NATO Review interviews Ireland's Defence Minister to find out.

[Photostory: partners in action](#) - Afghanistan is not the only operation where NATO has teamed up with partners. This photostory shows a few examples of partners working side by side with NATO.

[NATO's 'neutral' European partners: valuable contributors or free riders?](#) Stanley Sloan takes a deliberately provocative view of whether all sides benefit equally from neutral countries partnering with NATO. Here he looks at the pros and cons of the arrangement for the countries and the Alliance.

[Sweden: a special NATO partner?](#) Sweden's forces haven't been involved in a combat mission for over 50 years. But they have stood ready to assist in many NATO operations since the 1990s. Ryan Hendrickson here makes the case for Sweden to be called a special partner to NATO.

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[Balkan militaries strive to implement NATO standards](#), SE Times.com, 27 August

[McCain, Graham Call for NATO Expansion, Missile Interceptors](#), Defense News, 8 August

[NATO and the Arab League: The Importance of Being Earnest](#), Mona El-Kouedi, NATO Defence College Research Paper No.93, June 2013—this paper argues that in the wake of the Arab Spring, NATO needs to formalize and enhance its cooperation initiatives with the Arab League. Given that the League 'gives expression to the commonalities of Arab countries', the Alliance would be foolish not to use it as a vehicle to help build a strategic, sustainable and long-term partnership with the Arab world

[Statement by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen on progress in the Western Balkans](#), NATO News, 28 June—as Croatia prepares to become a member of the EU on July 1, I congratulate the Croatian government and the people of Croatia for this important step in completing a Europe that is whole, free and at peace. Croatia is a valued NATO ally and a role model of successful Euro-Atlantic integration for the whole region

[The Globalization of NATO and its Catastrophic Failure in Libya](#), Ludwig

Watzal, *The International News Magazine*, 26 June (Book Review)

### Armenia

[NATO's support to defence education in Armenia](#), NATO News, 16 September—a NATO-led team of experts visited Armenia from 2 to 5 September to conduct the annual review of the country's Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP). The team examined current and future defence education projects aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Armenian armed forces

### Azerbaijan

[NATO team holds training for Azerbaijani servicemen](#), Azer News, 2 October

[Azerbaijan & NATO: A Solution to Nagorno-Karabakh?](#) Atlantic Council of Canada, 18 July

### Brazil

[Brazil: NATO unilateralism serious concern](#), The BRICS Post, 7 August

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

[Destination NATO: Defence Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), Rohan Maxwell and John Andreas Olsen, *RUSI Whitehall Paper* 80, 2 July

### Colombia

[NATO Sets its sights on Colombia](#), Dave Feldman, *Upside Down World*, 3 July

[Colombia Signs Cooperation Memorandum with NATO](#), venezuelaanalysis.com, 26 June

[European Parliamentarians Oppose Colombia/NATO Pact](#), Prensa Latina, 26 June

[NATO, Colombia Sign Agreement On Future Cooperation](#), RTT News, 25 June

[Colombia signs deal with NATO](#), Business Recorder, 25 June

[NATO and Colombia open channel for future cooperation](#), NATO News, 25 June—NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow and the Defence Minister of Colombia, Juan Carlos Pinzon Bueno, signed an Agreement on the Security of Information, an accord that will allow NATO and Colombia to explore future cooperation and consultation in areas of common interest. "As an Alliance of democracies, we are gratified when countries sharing similar values reach out to us," the Deputy Secretary General said during his meeting with Minister Pinzon Bueno

[Colombia to Seal Agreement with NATO in Brussels](#), Prensa Latina, 22 June



## Cyprus

[Russian military accord with Cyprus could pose problems for NATO, U.S.](#), *World Tribune*, 28 June

## Egypt

[NATO calls for swift establishment of gov't in Egypt](#), *Kuwait News Agency*, 4 July

[NATO chief urges speedy return to civilian rule in Egypt](#), *Ahram Online*, 4 July

## Finland

[Finland, Sweden Mull NATO Option](#), *Defense News*, 11 September

[President: NATO membership no substitute for strong national defence](#), *YLE News*, 27 August

[Moscow Criticized For Meddling In Finland's NATO Debate](#), *Defense News*, 1 August

[Intensifying NATO Partnerships: The Example of the Finnish Navy](#), Paul Pryce, *The Atlantic Council of Canada*, 28 June

## Georgia

[Georgian NATO Ambitions Annoy Russia, Even Under Ivanishvili](#), *EurasiaNet*, 23 September

[Russian concerned about Georgia joining NATO special task force](#), *The Messenger*, 19 September

[Georgia Unlikely to Join NATO Next Year - Defense Minister](#), *RIA Novosti*, 9 September

[No, NATO Shouldn't Let Georgia In](#), Doug Bandow, *The National Interest*, 22 August

[Georgia Shouldn't \(and Won't\) Be in NATO](#), Daniel Larison, *The American Conservative*, 19 August

[Yes, NATO Should Let Georgia In](#), Michael Cecire, *The National Interest*, 19 August

[Saakashvili says he was ready to say no to NATO to resolve conflicts](#), *The Messenger*, 9 August

[NATO's Georgia Nightmare](#), Doug Bandow, *The National Interest*, 9 August

[Russian PM Hopes for 'Good Neighborly' Relations with Georgia](#), *civil.ge*, 7 August

[NATO Membership Would Strain Georgia's Ties with Russia - Medvedev](#), *RIA Novosti*, 7 August

[Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania: The Bug Pit Interview](#), *EurasiaNet*, 1 August

[U.S. Rejects Russian Accusations on Georgian Biolab](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 30 July

[Georgia assures U.S. to hold presidential election in line with int'l standards](#), *Azer News*, 22 July

[Russia Threatens Georgian Trade Over U.S. Biolab](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 July

[Georgia to become member of NATO Response Force in 2015](#), *AzerNews*, 16 July

[NATO Warns Georgia Against Political Persecution of Ex-Officials](#), *Moscow Times*, 1 July



[NATO Lambasts Russian Fences in Breakaway Georgian Region](#), *RIA Novosti*, 27 June

[NATO Secretary-General expresses concern over arrests of former senior officials in Georgia](#), *Trend.Az*, 27 June

[NATO Secretary General urges Russia to accept commitment on non-use of force against Georgia](#), *Trend.Az*, 27 June

[Georgia - on the path to NATO](#), *NATO Secretary General's Blog*, 27 June

[Georgian PM Meets Rasmussen, Discusses NATO And Russia](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 27 June

[NATO praises Georgia and encourages further reforms](#), *NATO News*, 27 June—on the second day of a visit to Georgia, the North Atlantic Council met with President Mikheil Saakashvili in Tbilisi and praised Georgia's role as a special partner of the Alliance

[NATO head urges Georgia to hold democratic presidential race](#), *Reuters*, 26 June

[NATO says Georgia getting closer to membership](#), *Global Post*, 26 June

[Rasmussen In Tbilisi For NATO-Georgia Meet](#), *RTT News*, 26 June

[NATO chief reaffirms support for Georgia's membership](#), *APA*, 26 June

[Secretary General: NATO appreciates Georgia's contribution to Afghan peacekeeping mission](#), *Trend.az*, 26 June

[Georgia: now the top non-NATO troop contributor in Afghanistan](#), *NATO News*, 26 June—Georgia has been assisting the NATO-

led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan since 2004. Following a substantial increase of its deployment in October last year, Georgia currently has over 1,500 troops deployed there, making it the largest non-NATO contributor to ISAF and the fifth largest contributor overall (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO-Georgia Commission meets in Tbilisi](#), *NATO News*, 26 June—Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen arrived in Tbilisi for a two-day visit of the North Atlantic Council to Georgia in order to assess the progress Georgia has made towards Euro-Atlantic integration. In a meeting with Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, the Secretary General praised Georgia's commitment to democratic reforms and to Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations

## Israel

[High Risk, High Reward: NATO and the Israel-Palestine Peace Process](#), Maureen Handrahan, *Atlantic Council of Canada*, 21 August

## Japan

[NATO and Japan explore opportunities to cooperate on emerging security challenges](#), *NATO News*, 1 July—a delegation from NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division met senior government representatives and experts in Tokyo, Japan, from 25 to 29 June to discuss possible practical cooperation on global security challenges, such as cyber defence, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation

[Senkaku/Diaoyu Dispute: Japan Bringing NATO into the Fold](#), Kathy Anduo Liu, *The Atlantic Council of Canada*, 19 June

## Kazakhstan

[Kazakhstan to hold peacekeeping exercises jointly with U.S., UK](#), *Azer News*, 6 August

## Kyrgyzstan

[Secretary General says NATO is open to expand cooperation with Kyrgyzstan](#), *NATO News*, 17 September—Rasmussen told President Atambayev that the Alliance is open to expand its cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, as well as providing support to democratic reforms



## Moldova

[NATO supports Moldova in defence education](#), NATO News, 16 July—a NATO-led team of experts visited Chisinau, Moldova, on 9 and 10 July to conduct a review of the Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP)

## Mongolia

[Mongolia seeks NATO support in defence education](#), NATO News, 2 July—a multinational team of experts from NATO professional military education institutions visited the Defence University of Mongolia from 24 to 29 June to discuss their most critical academic needs. The visit followed a request for support from the Mongolian Ministry of Defence, which would like to initiate a Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) with NATO

## Montenegro

[NATO Membership & Stability in the Western Balkans: The Case of Montenegro](#), Charles Kouri, Atlantic Council of Canada, 11 July

## Serbia

[Serbia "does not want to be part of any military bloc"](#), B92, 19 September—Ivica Dačić says Serbia does not want to join any military bloc while citizens would decide in a referendum if the issue of its NATO membership ever came up

[Cooperation between Serbian police and NATO](#), b92, 19 September

[Helping Serbia dispose of stocks of surplus munitions](#), NATO News, 18 July—a government-owned demilitarization facility in central Serbia will be further developed to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible disposal of almost 2,000 tonnes of surplus munitions, reducing the risk of explosion from ageing ammunition as well as the risk of proliferation

["53% of respondents support EU, 13% NATO membership"](#), b92, 18 July

## Sweden

[Priorities for President Obama's Visit to Sweden](#)—NATO says Syria's reported chemical attack 'cannot go unanswered', Luke Coffey, *Heritage Foundation Issue Brief* #4029, 28 August

[Sweden registers Nato force interest](#), *thelocal.se*, 10 July

[Opposition approves Nato joint training](#), *The Local.se*, 3 July

## Ukraine

[NATO to help Ukraine rebury radioactive waste](#), *Bsanna News*, 27 September

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[Ukraine joins NATO's counter-piracy operation Ocean Shield](#), NATO News, 24 September—a Ukrainian navy frigate is steaming towards the Horn of Africa to join NATO's counter-piracy mission Operation Ocean Shield after NATO Allies gave their final approval to Ukraine's participation in the mission. Ukraine will be the first partner nation to join the operation

[NATO sees great potential for co-operation with Ukraine](#), *New Europe*, 21 September

[Director of the NATO Liaison Office: Ukraine is an important contributor to international security](#), *ForUm*, 13 August

[Ukraine modernising its military education](#), NATO News, 16 July—Ukraine is modernising its defence education institutions with the support of NATO in what is the biggest educational programme the Alliance has ever embarked on with a partner country

[NATO Advise Ukraine on Military Education Reform](#), *Sacramento Bee*, 12 July

[Ukraine, NATO Carry Out Radioactive Cleanup](#), *RIA Novosti*, 11 July

[NATO implementing € 25 million project in Ukraine on disposal of radioactive waste](#), *Kyiv Post*, 11 July

## United Nations

[NATO Secretary General joins world leaders in New York for UN General Assembly](#), NATO News, 24 September

[Five years of strengthened cooperation with the United Nations](#), NATO News Release, 23 September—this week the focus is on New York as world leaders, including NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, gather for the annual plenary session of the UN General Assembly. It also marks five years since the signing, on 23 September 2008, of the Joint Declaration on UN/NATO Secretariat Cooperation, which has taken staff cooperation between the two organisations to a new level

[NATO and the United Nations launch a training module on Children and Armed Conflict](#), NATO News, 26 June—NATO and the UN are working together to protect children affected by conflict. During a visit to NATO HQ by Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, NATO launched a comprehensive and innovative e-learning course

## Uzbekistan

[Uzbekistan Media: We Should Join NATO, Conquer Eurasia](#), *EurasiaNet*, 15 July

## Gender:

[NATO: Women 'firmly on our agenda'](#), *devex*, 4 September

[Women and NATO: A Necessarily Gendered Perspective Part II](#), Avery Bruenjes, Atlantic Council of Canada, 4 July

## Exercises:

[Senior NATO officials, commanders observe major naval exercise off Italian coast](#), NATO News, 30 September—Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow together with ambassadors, commanders and other representatives from the North Atlantic Council and NATO's Military Committee observed Allied naval forces in action in the Mediterranean Sea. A large fleet of warships from NATO's Response Force (NRF) were conducting manoeuvres as part of the "Brilliant Mariner" exercise off Italy's Sicilian and Sardinian coasts

[NATO Response Force put to the test](#), NATO News, 30 September—the NATO Response Force (NRF) is being put to the test in a series of live exercises this autumn. Culminating in Exercise Steadfast Jazz at the beginning of November, a series of exercises is underway to train, test and certify the command structures and forces that will serve in next year's rotation of the NRF

[Major NATO exercise underway in the Mediterranean](#), *DefenceWeb*, 27 September

[Vigilant Skies 2013](#), NATO News, 27 September—a live exercise, Vigilant Skies 2013, to test the NATO-Russia Council's Cooperative Airspace Initiative (CAI) Information Exchange System (IES) took place on 23 – 27 September over the three CAI geographical areas of operational interest, Bodø – Murmansk, Warsaw – Kaliningrad and Ankara – Rostov-on-Don

[NATO plans major east European exercise, reassures Russia](#), *Reuters*, 18 September

[Ramstein Rover 2013 NATO exercise starts in Náměšť nad Oslavou](#), *Prague Daily Monitor*, 5 September

[NATO exercise Ramstein Rover starts in Czech Republic](#), *Xinhua*, 4 September

[Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013 to Test NATO Response Force](#), NATO ACO News, 19 August

[Busy autumn ahead for NATO Response Force training](#), NATO News, 8 August

[Steadfast Jazz to Feature Baltic Invasion Scenario](#), *ERR News*, 5 August

[Logisticians in "Fairyland"](#), NATO News, 28 June—NATO forces were deployed to the fictitious country of "Fairyland" to put logistic systems, equipment and procedures to the test in what was the Alliance's largest-ever logistics exercise. Held in Slovakia from 8 to 26 June, Capable Logistician 2013 involved NATO member and partner countries in a simulated crisis involving inter-ethnic conflict and floods of refugees

[Training for logistics cooperation in Slovakia](#), NATO News, 21 June—logisticians from several Allied and partner countries are being put to the test in NATO's largest-ever logistics exercise from 8 to 26 June. Capable Logistician 2013 is centred around a scenario where NATO-led multinational forces are deployed to a fictitious country to manage a simulated crisis involving inter-ethnic conflict and floods of refugees

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## Kosovo:

[NATO Secretary General condemns the death of a EULEX staff member](#), NATO News, 7 September

[Kosovo: Where NATO Bombing Only Made the Killing Worse](#), Jeffrey St.Clair and Alexander Cockburn, *Counterpunch*, 30 August

[The Kosovo Security Force now self-sustainable](#), NATO News, 9 July  
[NATO Secretary General statement on Kosovo Security Force reaching Full Operational Capability](#), NATO News, 9 July

[NATO continues to help maintain security in Kosovo: Rasmussen](#), *APA*, 4 July

[North Atlantic Council Visits NATO Peacekeeping Mission In Kosovo](#), *RTT News*, 3 July

[North Atlantic Council visits KFOR](#), NATO News, 3 July—the NATO Secretary General, the NAC and ambassadors of KFOR contributing partners visited KFOR to show continued support to the commander of KFOR General Halbauer and his troops, as well as NATO's continued commitment to a better future for the region

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## Libya:

[Libyan Troops To Train at Joint US-Bulgarian Bases](#), *Defense News*, 12 September

[Libyan troops to train in joint US-Bulgarian bases](#), *The Daily Star—Lebanon*, 12 September

[Building Libya's Security Sector](#), Frederic Wehrey, Peter Cole Carnegie, *Policy Outlook*, 6 August

[Reassessing the Libya Intervention](#), Daniel Troup, Atlantic Council of Canada, 26 July

[Did NATO Intervention Make Libya's War Bloodier?](#) David Bosco, The Multilateralist, Foreign Policy (blog), 18 July

[The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Libya: Reviewing Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR](#), Florence Gaub, *Letort Papers*, US Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, June 2013—Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR (OUP) turned out to be one of NATO's shorter missions. The lessons which can be drawn from OUP are both military and political in nature. The overestimation of air power as a result of "no boots on the ground" might be a dangerous conclusion for future cases; the lack of cultural advice very likely prolonged the mission, while the shortcomings in strategic communication gave input to improve an area that is still new to NATO

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[Mali: The Complex Impression of a Déjà vu](#), ISIS Europe, *European Security Review* 67, June 2013

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## Maritime Security:

[Rapid Fire Sept. 19, 2013: Europe's Declining Navies](#), *Defense Industry Daily*, 19 September

[NATO at sea: Trends in allied naval power](#), Bryan McGrath, American Enterprise Institute, 18 September

[NATO Secretary General thanks Djibouti for counter-piracy efforts](#), NATO News, 16 September—Rasmussen and the President of Djibouti discussed counter-piracy efforts off the Horn of Africa and the situation in Somalia during the visit to NATO HQ

[Safe Seas at What Price? The Costs, Benefits and Future of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield](#), James Bridger, NATO Defense College Research Paper No.95, September 2013

[NATO's Ocean Shield provides safe passage to world's largest ship](#), NATO News, 5 August—the Dutch Frigate HNLMS Van Speijk, part of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield, ensured the safe passage of the cargo vessel Maersk McKinney Moller as it transited the Gulf of Aden.

[NATO counter-piracy force exercises with Seychelles Coast Guard](#), NATO News, 31 July

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[SM-3 Block 1B Missile Interceptor Passes Test, Nears Full-Production](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 4 October

[Chinese missiles to be NATO operable: Turkey](#), *Hurriyet Daily News*, 3 October

[Will Obama call Erdoğan on Chinese missiles?](#) *Hurriyet Daily News*, 28 September

[Turkey may be forced to 'standalone' air defences](#), Burak Bekdil, *Hurriyet Daily News*, 28 September—the integration of the chosen Chinese system with NATO assets is very unlikely

[US-sanctioned Chinese firm wins Turkey missile defense system tender](#), *Hurriyet Daily News*, 26 September

[U.S. Conducts Successful Missile Defense Test with SM-3 Block 1B](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 September

[Pentagon Conducts Multifaceted Anti-missile Test in Pacific](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 10 September

[The Israeli Experience in Missile Defense: Lessons for NATO](#), Jean-Loup Samaan & Guillaume Lasconjarias, Atlantic Council *Issue Brief*, August 2013

[No Progress in Russia-NATO Missile Defense Talks – Official](#), *RIA Novosti*, 14 August

[Interview with Jakub Cimatorsky from NATO's BMD Section](#), Andrew Elwell, *DefenceIQ*, 30 July

[After Failed Tests, U.S. May Fire More Interceptors to Defend Nation](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 24 July

[Pentagon Studies Aegis Antimissile System for Potential East Coast Use](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 18 July

[Pentagon May Hasten Missile Intercept Retest After Latest Failure](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 17 July

[GOP Lawmakers: More Money Needed to Fix Interceptor Faults](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 12 July

[Spain Could Get \\$260M for Hosting U.S. Aegis Antimissile Warships](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 July

[Critical Long-Range Missile Intercept Test Fails to Take Out Target](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 July

[Long-awaited GMD Missile Intercept Test Scheduled for Friday](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 3 July

[Raytheon Missiles Seeks SM-3 NATO Consortium](#), *DefenseWorld*, 28 June

[NATO must develop new capabilities against ballistic missiles](#), *BioPrep-Watch*, 26 June



[U.S. Official Defends Spending on NATO Missile Shield, Under GOP Attack](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 25 June

[NATO Awards \\$180M Antimissile Contract](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 24 June

[NATO signs contract to update missile defense](#), *BioPrepWatch*, 24 June

[ThalesRaytheonSystems to Upgrade NATO Missile Defense Capabilities](#), *Signal Magazine*, 24 June

[ThalesRaytheon to Upgrade NATO Missile Defense System](#), *Defense News*, 23 June

[NATO Contracts Major Missile Defense Upgrade](#), *RTT News*, 21 June

[NATO contracts major missile defence upgrade](#), *NATO News*, 20 June—the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency signed with Thales-RaytheonSystems a 136 million Euro contract for a significant upgrade to NATO's current theatre missile defence command and control capability

[MEADS Tactical BMC4I Software Demonstrates Interoperability In NATO Exercises](#), *The Sacramento Bee*, 19 June

## NATO Military Committee & International Military Staff

[NATO Military Committee Conference focuses on Syria issues](#), *Xinhuanet*, 15 September

[Lieutenant General Mark O. Schissler takes over as the new Deputy Chairman of NATO's Military Committee](#), *NATO News*, 2 September—US Air Force Lieutenant General Mark O. Schissler takes over the post of Deputy Chairman of NATO's Military Committee from outgoing Deputy Chairman, Marine Corps Lieutenant



General Walter E. Gaskin

[NATO International Military Staff welcomes new Director General](#), *NATO News*, 24 July—Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper takes over the post of Director General of the NATO International Military Staff from outgoing Director General, Lieutenant General Jürgen Bornemann (photo credit: NATO)

## NATO-Russia Relations:

[Baltics concerned over war games](#), *Baltic Times*, 2 October

[NATO Concerned Over Russia-Georgia Boundary](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 2 October

[NATO and Russia defend the skies together](#), *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 2 October

[NATO-Russia counter-terrorism drill provides key communications link](#), *Stars and Stripes*, 25 September

[Lavrov, NATO chief focus on missile defense](#), *Russia & India Report*, 25 September

[Russia and NATO launch Vigilant Skies-2013 exercises](#), *Russia & India Report*, 23 September

[Russian War Games on Baltic Border Spark Security Fears](#), *Bloomberg*, 20 September

[Russia and NATO to hold Vigilant Skies-2013 joint drill in late September](#), *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 17 September

[NATO-Russia: re-reset?](#) Konstantin von Eggert, *NATO Review*, August 2013

[Why didn't NATO come to Russia?](#) *Pravda*, 16 August

[Afghan transit center in Russia's Ulyanovsk proves too expensive for NATO—newspaper](#), *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 15 August

[The new East-West military confrontation](#), Manlio Dinucci, *Voltaire Network*, 14 August

[NATO to send observers to Russia-Belarus war games](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 25 July

[Russia calls on NATO to review Cold War methods of arms control](#), *Russia Today*, 25 July

[Remarks](#) by Rose Gottemoeller, US Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the NATO-Russia Council

Ambassadorial Annotated Agenda, Washington, DC, 24 July

[Russia and NATO yet to overcome confidence crisis](#), *worldbulletin.net*, 13 July

[Political and Military Cooperation or NATO-Russian Roulette: Proactive Management of a Difficult Relationship](#), Conference Report, The Research Division NATO Defense College, in collaboration with the International Military Staff at NATO HQ, June 2013

## Nuclear Weapons:

[JASON on the B61 Life Extension Program](#), Stephen Young, Union of Concerned Scientists, 26 September

[NATO chief 'encouraged' by Iran nuclear weapon pledge](#), *Global Post*, 19 September

[US tactical nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from Europe](#): Russian Defense Ministry, *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 14 August

[B-61 Updates Divide Congressional Spending Panels](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 12 August

[Udall needs to rethink huge spending on B61](#), Daryl Kimball and Jay Coghlan, *Albuquerque Journal*, 8 August

['It is my awful duty...': What the Queen's last words to Britain would have been in the event of a nuclear conflict](#), *The Independent*, 1 August

[The Queen and Wintex 1983: How not to lift morale at a time of crisis](#), Charles Crawford, *The Telegraph*, 1 August—the speech the Queen was meant to deliver in the event of nuclear war was weak, if not bizarre

[NATO pursues nuclear terrorism](#), Milan Rai, *The Canadian*, 1 August

[Boeing to Assess B-61 Bomb Dynamics](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 July

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The Deep Cuts Project, hosted by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (ISFH), is a trilateral German-US-Russian study project to analyze the next steps in nuclear disarmament. Together, with Deep Cuts Project partners—the Arms Control Association in Washington and the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO, RAN) in Moscow—the initiative brings together a group of internationally renowned Commissioners to analyze how to address the key challenges to achieving further reductions in global nuclear weapons arsenals. Through a number of timely workshops and reports, the Commission's aim is to provide decision-makers as well as the interested public with concrete policy options based on sound analysis and research.

For further details, see: [www.deepcuts.org](http://www.deepcuts.org)

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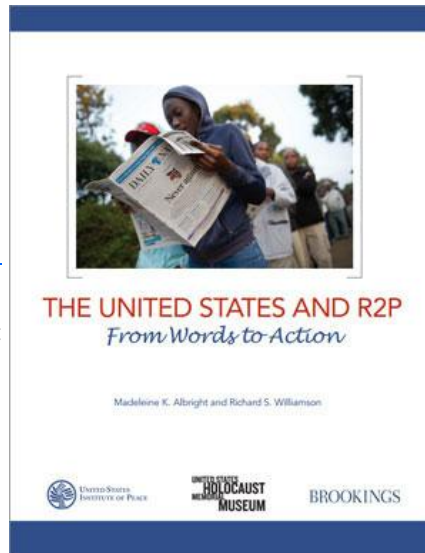
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[NATO chief says some allies may help implement Syria accord](#), *Reuters*, 19 September

[Dempsey: Securing Syria's Chemical Weapons Is 'Feasible'](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 September

[NATO Chief Says Military Option In Syria Must Remain Open](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 19 September

[Syria's main arms suppliers among least generous aid donors, says Oxfam](#), *The Guardian*, 19 September—aid agency finds Russia and Qatar have given just 3% of their fair share to UN appeal which has raised less than half its target

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## NATO Favorability

	Fall 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	09-13 Change
	%	%	%	%	%	
Spain	56	53	62	45	42	-14
Germany	73	57	60	65	59	-14
France	71	68	70	67	58	-13
Poland	75	77	72	70	64	-11
Czech Rep.	66	--	--	51	56	-10
U.S.	53	54	54	51	49	-4
Britain	63	60	63	62	59	-4
Italy	64	--	--	61	60	-4
Russia	24	40	37	22	27	+3
Greece	--	--	--	20	25	--
Turkey	--	--	18	15	25	--
Canada	--	--	--	--	57	--

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## Upcoming Events:

[Ground the Drones: A Week of Action](#): 5-12 October 2013 - as part of International Keep Space for Peace Week, the UK Drones Campaign Network is encouraging organisations, local groups and individuals to engage in actions to both raise public awareness about drones and action to 'ground the drones'

[Afghan Peace Conference](#), 12 October 2013, London—the first UK peace event to focus solely on the ongoing 12 year conflict, hearing from: Afghans, journalists, grassroots activists and political academics on the current situation and different paths towards justice and peace. The conference will give particular focus to the issue of women's rights in Afghanistan with key note speeches from Afghan women. It will provide the opportunity to support non-violent peace, reconciliation and unity among Afghans both inside and outside the country. There will be a range of workshops looking at various topics including drone warfare in Afghanistan



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## Czech Republic

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[Czech top officials against military intervention in Syria](#), *Prague Daily Monitor*, 30 August

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[NATO Fighter Jets to Make Low-Altitude Flights Over Estonia](#), *ERR News*, 31 July

[Estonia skeptical about joint Baltic army](#), *Baltic Business News*, 22 July

[Reinsalu Opens NATO Legal Conference](#), *ERR*, 25 June—Defence Minister Urmas Reinsalu opened a high-level NATO legal conference in Tallinn, where 150 jurists from allied and partner countries gathered to discuss the future of security in the alliance

## France

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[NATO Secretary General thanks Iceland for its commitment](#), NATO News, 16 July—NATO Secretary General thanked Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson for his country's commitment to NATO during his visit to Alliance HQ. "Iceland makes a difference within NATO, by bringing your expertise and your experience to our political discussions, and you make a difference on our operations," he said

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[NATO To Conduct Air-Defense Training Exercise In Iceland](#), *RTT News*, 3 July

[NATO and partners to conduct air-defence flying training over Iceland](#), NATO News, 3 July—NATO will conduct an air-defence flying training event for pilots and ground support personnel, including fighter controllers, in Iceland, 3-21 February 2014

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## Latvia

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[Poland's Withdrawal from Afghanistan to Signal a New Stage in its Relationship with NATO](#), Charles Kouri, *Atlantic Council of Canada*, 4 August

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*Just as still water is a breeding ground for mosquitos, so single-superpowerdom seems to be a breeding ground for delusion.*

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*The prosecution of Manning was intended to send a signal. If nothing else, it has done that. It has shown that when faced with evidence of its own wrongdoing, the current US administration focuses on punishing the messenger. It shows the first amendment is easier to honour in the abstract than in reality. And it risks sending a message to nations that routinely imprison, assault or even kill journalists and activists, that when it comes to the crunch, the supposed leader of the free world is not much different.*

James Ball, [The Guardian](#), 30 July 2013

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*A few Blackhawks fans were led away in handcuffs after celebrating the Stanley Cup. But they weren't treated nearly as harshly as political dissidents would have been, if they'd behaved the same way.*

[Opinion: What If NATO Protesters Had Behaved Like Blackhawks Fans?](#) *NBC Chicago*, 25 June

# NATO WATCH

NATO Watch

13 North Erradale  
Gairloch  
Scotland  
IV21 2DS

E-mail: [idavis@natowatch.org](mailto:idavis@natowatch.org)

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**Smart Defence....** continued from  
front page

*cooperation is vital when all our nations are facing financial challenges. I welcome the efforts Hungary is making to end the decline of defence spending and I encourage you to continue looking for ways to make better use of available funds through increased investment in modern capabilities.*

Speaking in parliament after meeting the Secretary General, the [Prime Minister said](#) that "no country can be strong without a respectable army". Later he said that one of the main questions for NATO's future is how much money the member countries can spend on military development, adding "we will maintain our security capabilities at a high level". He said he had told Rasmussen that "we must develop the army to serve our own national interests," as well as international obligations. The army and the system of military cooperation within NATO are greatly valued, he added.

Orbán also said that he had told Rasmussen that despite the current obstacles to NATO expansion, the organisation must preserve its openness and willingness to allow new countries to get involved, adding that he had asked for the issue to be discussed at the next NATO summit.

[Defense News](#) reports that Hungary plans to sell off its old Soviet-made tanks and fighter planes, saying they were in "very good condition" but expensive to maintain and incompatible with NATO requirements. Hungary scrapped conscription in 2004 and now maintains an army of some 19,000 soldiers, down from around 140,000 during the Warsaw Pact era.



Exercise Capable Logistician in Slovakia, June 2013—photo credit: NATO

## End word:

### US Cyber Offense is "The best in the world"

**Steven Aftergood, [SECREC NEWS](#) from the FAS Project on Government Secrecy, Volume 2013, Issue No. 76, 26 August 2013**

The subject of offensive cyber action by the US government was classified for many years and was hardly discussed in public at all. Then several years ago the possibility of US cyber offense was formally acknowledged, though it was mostly discussed in the conditional mood, as a capability that might be developed and employed under certain hypothetical circumstances.

Today, however, US offensive cyber warfare is treated as an established fact. Not only that but, officials say, the US military is pretty good at it.

"We believe our [cyber] offense is the best in the world," said Gen. Keith B. Alexander, director of the National Security Agency and Commander of US Cyber Command. His comments appeared in newly published answers to questions for the record from a March 2013 [hearing](#) of the House Armed Services Committee (at [p. 87](#)).

"Cyber offense requires a deep, persistent and pervasive presence on adversary networks in order to precisely deliver effects," Gen. Alexander [explained](#) in response to a question from Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ). "We

maintain that access, gain deep understanding of the adversary, and develop offensive capabilities through the advanced skills and tradecraft of our analysts, operators and developers. When authorized to deliver offensive cyber effects, our technological and operational superiority delivers unparalleled effects against our adversaries' systems."

"Potential adversaries are demonstrating a rapidly increasing level of sophistication in their offensive cyber capabilities and tactics. In order for the Department of Defense to deny these adversaries an asymmetric advantage, it is essential that we continue the rapid development and resourcing of our Cyber Mission Forces."

In response to another question for the record from Rep. James R. Langevin (D-RI), Gen. Alexander said that "Over the next three years we will train the Cyber Mission Forces that will perform world-class offensive and defensive cyber operations as part of our Cyber National Mission Teams, Cyber Combat Mission Teams and Cyber Protection Forces. We do not require additional authorities or resources to train the currently identified cyber professionals" (at [p. 85](#)).

See [Information Technology and Cyber Operations: Modernization and Policy Issues to Support the Future Force](#), hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, March 13, 2013 (published July 2013).

At the time of his confirmation

hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2010, Gen. Alexander was asked in a [pre-hearing question](#), "Has the US ever 'demonstrated capabilities' in cyberspace in a way that would lead to deterrence of potential adversaries?" He replied (Question 15p): "Not in any significant way."

This seems to have been an incomplete response. Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin noted in questions for the record of Gen. Alexander's [confirmation hearing in 2010](#) that in fact offensive cyber capabilities had already been demonstrated: "Unfortunately, we also learned, after asking a specific question following the appearance of a *Washington Post* article reporting on an apparent offensive cyber operation, that DOD has undertaken a number of offensive cyber operations in the last several years, none of which was reported to the Armed Services Committees...."

On the vital question of oversight, Senator Levin [asked](#): "Lieutenant General Alexander, do you agree that it is appropriate that the Armed Services Committees be informed of all U.S. offensive cyber operations?"

Gen. Alexander provided an affirmative [response](#), but in a way that altered the terms of the question: "Yes, I agree that in almost all circumstances the Armed Services Committees should be informed in a timely manner of significant offensive cyber operations conducted by CYBERCOM."