

Promoting a more transparent and accountable NATO

No.20 – April 2011

**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:

### NATO Watch Editorial April 2011

- **Libya: NATO must stick to R2P principles**
- **Afghanistan: transition to what?**
- **Special Forces need Special Oversight**
- **Droning on....**
- **NATO tanker driver in Pakistan- worst job in the world?**

#### Libya: NATO must stick to R2P principles

The UN-authorised intervention in Libya has thrown up complex ethical issues of paramount importance, as well as misgivings about NATO assuming command of the military dimension. It is an intervention that has both an overt face and a hidden face, and behind every rationalization seemingly another rationalization, often of quite a different order than the declared protection of Libyan civilians.

What started out as an action that observed the majority of the norms of international law and multilateral consultation is now in danger of reverting to type. The heavy-handed application of unilateral US, French and British muscle and talk of regime change, arming the rebels and even assassinating Gaddafi risks breaking the fragile international consensus and many of the political gains secured through UNSC resolution 1973 – including the historic embrace of the responsibility to protect (R2P) principles agreed in 2005.



(A rebel mans an anti-aircraft gun in Ras Lanuf, 8 March – photo credit: شبكة برق | B.R.Q/flickr)

With NATO assuming command of all military operations, the Alliance must stick to the letter of the UN resolution and R2P principles. Five crucial steps are required:

1. The use of "all necessary measures" to protect civilian areas from attack by Libyan government forces should only continue as long as the attacks on civilians persist or are threatened
2. Diplomatic efforts should be stepped up to achieve an early unconditional ceasefire and then work towards a lasting political settlement
3. NATO should abide by clear and transparent rules of engagement
4. Parliaments in member states should hold their governments accountable for NATO actions in Libya
5. Open and careful monitoring of civilian casualties

There was undoubtedly a strong anti-war case for staying out of Libya, but there was, and still is, a stronger pro-peace case for limited military intervention based upon a responsibility to protect civilians. But the limits of the Libyan intervention need to be clearly articulated and followed to the letter.

For the full article, click [here](#)

#### Afghanistan: transition to what?

Nearly two-thirds of Americans now say the war in Afghanistan is no longer worth fighting, the highest proportion yet opposed to the conflict, according to a recent [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#). And even more revealing, nearly three-quarters of the American public thinks a substantial number of US forces should be withdrawn from Afghanistan this summer. But fewer than four in 10 think it will happen. This is hardly surprising given media [reports](#) that the first Americans to come home are expected to be engineers and support troops, rather than combat soldiers. (A [resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan](#)

was rejected by the House of Representatives by 328 to 93 earlier in the month, although more US lawmakers backed it than a similar resolution a year ago which drew only 65 supporters).

Similarly only a quarter of the British public think Britain's approach in Afghanistan is working, [according to a new poll](#), and eighty-three per cent believe Afghanistan will still be at war in 2014 when all foreign combat troops are due to have left and the process of transition to Afghan security forces is supposed to be complete. These findings, which would probably be replicated across ISAF troop contributing countries, signal a growing challenge for President Obama and other allied leaders as they decide how quickly to pull military forces from Afghanistan this summer and beyond.

The start of the process of transition to Afghan lead was [announced by President Karzai](#) on 22 March, with Afghan national security forces taking charge of security operations in seven districts and provinces in the country. But with many Afghans having little trust in the forces that are meant to protect them, a new UK campaign coalition, [Together Afghanistan](#), doubts that a transition from international troops to Afghan forces will be enough to make Afghanistan stable. Instead, the coalition, which includes Oxfam,

CARE International UK, Christian Aid and Afghanaid, is calling for a fresh approach focusing squarely on what Afghans need to build a better, more peaceful future – and what the international community



needs to do to support them. This includes better protection for Afghan civilians caught up in the conflict, full transparency on civilian casualties, open and accountable aid spending,

and a push towards a comprehensive political settlement to end the conflict as set out in an [open letter to the UN Secretary General](#). Signed by, among others, former US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr Robert Finn, two former UK Foreign office ministers, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown and David Miliband, and former NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, the letter calls for a political settlement to be “pursued with the same drive and leadership currently devoted to the military front”.

That would be the kind of drive and leadership displayed by US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates who [announced that a negotiating team would be dispatched](#) from Washington to work out a “strategic partnership” with the Afghans. He also indicated that such a ‘partnership’ would keep the US military in the country well past the 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of ‘combat troops’. All the signposts suggest that ‘transition’ is another Afghan concept that is set to be mangled and distorted by the Pentagon’s conflict resolution prism.

### Special Forces need Special Oversight

“If the US is serious about wanting to bring legitimacy to the Afghan government, then it has got to stop partnering with notoriously abusive commanders”. So said Human Rights Watch following [allegations](#) that an Afghan mercenary working for US special forces went on a two-year war crimes spree. US special forces are also accused by Human Rights Watch of working with Afghan partners in other provinces who are accused of appalling human rights violations. These types of operations—and alliances—will not win Afghan hearts and minds, nor will they facilitate a successful transition.

(Special Forces Support Group Inaugural Parade – photo credit: UK MoD/flickr)



But it is not just US special forces that need to be reigned-in. So-called ‘special forces’ across the Alliance are more active today than at any time since the Cold War, and several national defence reviews earmark more resources and wider roles for them. While they undoubtedly have a role to play in policing a dangerous world, as [Richard Norton-Taylor writes](#) about the British SAS, “the ridiculous cloak of invisibility that shrouds the activities of our special forces results in a consequent lack of accountability”. In short, NATO special forces need special oversight.

### Droning on.....

An issue linked to the use of special forces and just as likely to be fuelling extremism and anti-western sentiment is the use of armed drones. Approximately 40 people were killed in mid-March in a [US drone strike in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan](#). Although it was initially claimed that the targets were ‘militants’ discussing plans to send fighters across the border into Afghanistan, the head of Pakistan’s army, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, later issued a rare and strong condemnation, stating that the strike “carelessly and callously targeted” a jirga of “peaceful citizens”. Unnamed US officials, obviously not quite buying-in to the ‘hearts and minds’ agenda, dismissed the claim, commenting that those killed were “[not the local men’s glee club](#)”, “not a charity car wash”, and were not “[gathering for a bake sale, they were terrorists](#)”. This drone strike was the 21st reported this year. Meanwhile, an agreement to regulate and limit the use of armed drones becomes ever more pressing.

### NATO tanker driver in Pakistan – worst job in the world?

It came as no surprise to read in the Pakistan press in early March that half of the oil tanker owners [have halted supply to NATO forces in Afghanistan due to security reasons](#). Attacks on [oil tankers in Pakistan](#) appear as regular as clockwork in NATO news feeds. Khyber Agency Truckers Association president Shakir Afridi said that over 1,000 tankers had been destroyed since 2002 and 85 drivers had been killed and 120 wounded in sabotage acts on route from Karachi to Afghanistan. Until recently most of NATO’s food, fuel and other supplies were shipped by sea to the Pakistani port of Karachi, to be transported overland into Afghanistan.

But now NATO planners are looking northwards to [Central Asia for its supply lines](#) via the Baltic and Black Sea ports of Riga and Poti, respectively. As these



routes, known as the Northern Distribution Network (NDN), grow in significance—and around 60 percent of all the fuel that goes to US and NATO forces in Afghanistan now comes down through the NDN—authoritarian regimes in Central Asia stand to benefit, both economically and politically, as Western leaders become more circumspect in their criticism of democratization and human rights practices. Russian influence

over these supply routes also adds a further bargaining chip for Moscow in its 'reset' with Washington. And the future for the embattled Pakistani tanker drivers? With little likelihood of the northern route completely supplanting the line of communications through Pakistan any time soon, the tanker drivers will continue to dice with death on the Balochistan highway.

## News, Commentary and Reports:

### Afghanistan-Pakistan:

(photo credit: Stitch/flickr)

#### News

[Statement by the Secretary General on the attack on the United Nations compound in Mazar-i-Sharif](#), NATO News, 1 April

[MoD pays £1.3m compensation to Afghans for death, injury and damage](#), *The Guardian*, 28 March – UK MoD payouts include £542 for a girl killed in a fire and £4,700 for a shop destroyed by a flare; [Get the data: MoD compensation payouts to Afghan civilians](#)

[Taliban insurgents abduct police recruits in eastern Afghanistan](#), *McClatchy*, 27 March

[The Kill Team](#), *Rolling Stone*, 27 March - How US soldiers in Afghanistan murdered innocent civilians and mutilated their corpses – and how their officers failed to stop them

[Nato forces kill seven Afghan civilians](#), *Financial Times*, 26 March

[Soldier Gets 24 Years for Killing 3 Afghan Civilians](#), *New York Times*, 23 March

[Central Asia Stands To Gain As NATO Shifts Supply Lines Away From Pakistan](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 22 March

[President Karzai announces first phase of transition](#), NATO News, 22 March - President Karzai announced the beginning of transition to Afghan lead for seven districts and provinces in the country from July: Bamiyan province, Herat city, Kabul province (except Surobi), Lashkar Gah (Helmand), Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh), and Mehtar Lam (Laghman). The announcement was made as part of the President's address on the occasion the Afghan New Year (Now Ruz), 'a very important and significant' year for the Afghan people; [NATO Secretary General welcomes Afghan transition announcement](#), NATO Press Release, 22 March; [Hamid Karzai names areas to be handed to Afghan forces](#), *BBC News*, 22 March

[US Army 'kill team' in Afghanistan posed for photos of murdered civilians](#), *The Guardian*, 21 March - Commanders brace for backlash of anti-US sentiment that could be more damaging than after the Abu Ghraib scandal

[New phase in Afghanistan as NATO readies handover](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 21 March - International forces deployed in Afghanistan begin their handover of security responsibilities to the local Afghan police and armed forces today. But many Afghans think the withdrawal comes too soon

[Call to cut links with war-crimes militias](#), Julius Cavendish, *The Independent*, 19 March Campaigners have called on NATO to cut links with warlords accused of human rights abuses in Afghanistan, following allegations that an Afghan mercenary working for US special forces went on a two-year war crimes spree



[Are Afghan Security Forces Ready to Take Over?](#) *Time*, 18 March

[Suspected U.S. drone strike in Pakistan, 38 killed](#), *Reuters*, 17 March

[Afghan governor praises 'peace and stability' in Canadian secured area](#), *The Montreal Gazette*, 16 March

(Overlooking Kabul, March 2011 – photo credit: David Bailey/flickr)



[Afghanistan Plans Departure of Security Firms](#), *New York Times*, 16 March

[Petraeus Tells Panel July Drawdown in Afghanistan May Include Some Combat Troops](#), *New York Times*, 16 March

[NATO to probe killing of two Afghan teens](#), *Globe and Mail*, 16 March  
[Poll: Nearly two-thirds of Americans say Afghan war isn't worth fighting](#), *Washington Post*, 15 March; the full poll results are available [here](#)

[Security deteriorating in Afghanistan, life "untenable"-ICRC](#), *Reuters Africa*, 15 March

[First to Leave Afghanistan Will Be Noncombat Troops](#), *New York Times*, 14 March

[NATO Secretary General statement on suicide attack in Kunduz](#), *NATO News*, 14 March

[Karzai again condemns NATO operations](#), *Washington Post*, 12 March

[Winning Hearts While Flattening Vineyards Is Rather Tricky](#), *New York Times*, 11 March

[U.S. warns NATO nations against rushed Afghan exit](#), *Reuters Africa*, 11 March

[NATO Cites Afghan Advances Before Security Transfer to Karzai](#), *Bloomberg*, 11 March

[Nato troops 'kill Afghan president's cousin'](#), *The Guardian*, 10 March - Hamid Karzai and Nato launch separate investigations as nighttime shooting points towards potential intelligence failure

[Can Afghan National Army survive Nato exit?](#) Caroline Wyatt, *BBC News*, 9 March

[Intel official: NATO seizes most-powerful Iranian rockets known to be smuggled in for Taliban](#), *The Canadian Press*, 9 March

[AP Interview: Petraeus says tough summer ahead](#), *Washington Post*, 9 March - The top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan says fighting this summer may be worse than last year but some reduction in American forces is still possible in July

[British special forces seize Iranian rockets in Afghanistan](#), *The Guardian*, 9 March - William Hague condemns Tehran's 'completely unacceptable' behaviour after rocket shipment to Taliban is intercepted

[Most of those killed in drone attacks were terrorists: military](#), *Dawn.com*, 9 March - for the first time, the Pakistani military provided official, on-the-record details about the US drones program in the country's northwest, describing "militant fatalities" from the strikes in North Waziristan from 2007-11. Maj-Gen Ghayur Mehmood, who is in charge of troops in the tribal agency, stated, "There are a few civilian casualties in such precision strikes, but a majority of those eliminated are terrorists, including foreign terrorist elements"

[In Afghanistan, U.S. 'civilian surge' falls short in building local government](#), *Washington Post*, 8 March

[Weary tanker owners give up Nato oil supply](#), *Dawn.com*, 8 March - About half of the oil tanker owners have halted supply to NATO forces in Afghanistan due to security reasons and the extortion money demanded by police and khasadar personnel at various points

[Karzai: Afghan people will decide terms for US forces to remain](#), *The Guardian*, 8 March - President Hamid Karzai says meeting of tribal leaders will plan handover to Afghan security forces

[US claims to have driven Taliban out of Sangin](#), *The Guardian*, 8 March - US defence secretary Robert Gates praises marines for 'dramatic turnaround' after British forces pulled out

[Afghan Air Force returns to flight](#), *The Vancouver Sun*, 6 March

[Child air-strike deaths stir fury in Afghanistan](#), *AFP*, 6 March

[NATO kills Taliban "shadow" governor, insurgent in Afghanistan](#), *Monsters and Critics.com*, 5 March

[Obama expresses regret for strike killing Afghan boys](#), *CNN*, 3 March

[UN envoy calls for military review after air strikes kill Afghan children](#), *UN News Centre*, 3 March

[Nine Afghan Boys Collecting Firewood Killed by NATO Helicopters](#), *New York Times*, 2 March - General David Petraeus offered a rare personal apology for the deaths of 9 Afghan boys who were gathering firewood, mistaken for insurgents, and killed in a NATO airstrike in the eastern province of Kunar



(Marjah District Governor Abdul Motalib Majbor greets Lt. Col. David Hudspeth, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, before a shura in Southern Marjah District, Helmand province, 1 April – photo credit: isafmedia/flickr)



(Women's Day - Women from the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team and Iowa National Guard's 734th Agribusiness Development Team gather alongside Afghan women to celebrate International Women's Day at the Ministry of Culture and Information, 8 March – photo credit: US National Guard/flickr)

#### MPs critical of Britain's

[policy in Afghanistan](#), *The Guardian*, 2 March - Cross-party report suggests justification for fighting war 'may have been achieved some time ago'

A senior U.S. official commented: "Gender issues are going to have to take a back seat to other priorities. There's no way we can be successful if we maintain every special interest and pet project. All those pet rocks in our rucksack were taking us down".

[In Afghanistan, U.S. shifts strategy on women's rights as it eyes wider priorities](#), Rajiv Chandrasekaran, *Washington Post*, 6 March

### Commentary and Reports

[Gunning for Progress: Afghanistan's Artillery Corps comes of age in Helmand](#), NATO News, 25 March - In Afghanistan, advances are often measured in baby steps rather than leaps and bounds. However this month, in the town of Gereshk in Helmand Province, the pitter-patter of progress was exchanged for the booming cacophony of heavy guns, as the Artillery Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 3/215 Brigade was making sure everyone knew just how far it had come in its transition from a force in training, to a strong, independently-functioning, Afghan unit

♠♠ [Afghanistan: Negotiating Peace](#) - The Report of The Century Foundation International Task Force on Afghanistan in Its Regional and Multilateral Dimensions, March 2011 – Report from the international [task force](#) organized by The Century Foundation, under the leadership of Ambassadors Lakhdar Brahimi and Thomas Pickering. Their findings and recommendations seek to determine what kind of political path might lead to ending the war; also see, [How to end the war in Afghanistan?](#) Matthieu Aikins, *Foreign Policy*, 23 March; and [It takes two to talk: reading the Century Foundation report](#), Thomas Ruttig, *Foreign Policy*, 24 March

[The International Mission in Afghanistan: A Discussion with General David H. Petraeus](#), Banqueting House, Royal Palace of Whitehall, & RUSI, 23 March

♠♠ [Transition to nowhere: The limits of "Afghanization"](#), Thomas Johnson and Matthew DuPee, *Foreign Policy*, 22 March; [A response on the training of Afghan Forces](#), Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, *Foreign Policy*, 29 March

♠♠ Launch of [Together Afghanistan](#), a UK-based coalition calling for a fresh approach focusing squarely on what Afghans need to build a better, more peaceful future, 22 March; also see, [open letter to the UN Secretary General](#)

[Afghan security handover more signal than real change](#), Emma Graham-Harrison, *Reuters*, 20 March

[There Is No Neutral](#), Nadia Schadlow, *Foreign Policy*, 16 March - If NGOs think they can claim neutrality in Afghanistan, they're fooling themselves

[Behind the scenes of Raymond Davis's release](#), Huma Imtiaz, *Foreign Policy*, 16 March

[Petraeus: Taliban momentum halted in Afghanistan, but harder fighting ahead](#), *Washington Post*, 16 March - in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, US and NATO commander in Afghanistan Gen. David Petraeus said that the Taliban's momentum had been stopped in several key parts of the country, and that 700 Taliban commanders and 2,200 fighters had been "reconciled" with the Afghan government, but that progress in the country is "fragile and reversible". Petraeus also said the progress will allow an undetermined number of US troops to leave Afghanistan this summer, though he and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michèle Flournoy spoke of the need for a long-term training partnership with Afghan security forces,



and possibly joint basing of Afghan and American troops after 2014. Petraeus's prepared statement is available [here](#) and Flournoy's [here](#)

[The undeclared AfPak war](#), Joshua Foust, *Foreign Policy*, 15 March

♣♣ [Counting the Dead in Afghanistan](#), John Bohannon, *Science*, 11 March (Vol. 331 no. 6022 pp. 1256-1260) - A military data set of civilian casualties produced by ISAF indicates that the war has become more lethal to the Afghan population, largely because of indiscriminate insurgent attacks - the ISAF data (and other casualty data sets) may be downloaded from [here](#); [UN tally of Afghan civilian deaths twice as high as NATO number](#), *Montreal Gazette*, 10 March

[A Battle in Baghlan](#), Paul Wood, *Foreign Policy*, 11 March - What going to war against the Taliban in Afghanistan's troubled north is really like

[Lack of Afghan Political Strategy Worrisome as West Prepares to Relinquish Security](#), *DefenceIQ*, 10 March

♣♣ [Afghanistan annual report 2010, protection of civilians in armed conflict](#), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, March 2011 – civilian casualties rose by 15 percent in 2010 and in the total number of civilians killed in conflict, insurgents were responsible for 75 percent of the 2,777 total conflict-related civilian deaths in the country. The report also notes that targeted killings of Afghan government officials, aid workers, and civilians perceived to be supportive of NATO forces or the Afghan government more than doubled from the previous year, and observed a 26 percent decline in the number of civilian deaths caused by Afghan and coalition forces; [UN says Afghan civilian deaths spike in 2010](#), *Associated Press*, 9 March; [U.N. Calls for Better Protection of Afghan Civilians](#), *New York Times*, 9 March; [Targeted civilian killings spiral in Afghan war: U.N.](#), *Reuters*, 9 March

[The politics of Afghan women's rights](#), Naheed Mustafa, *Foreign Policy*, 8 March

[Putting Afghan Plan Into Action Proves Difficult](#), C.J.Chivers, *New York Times*, 8 March

[The war over Afghan civilian casualties](#), Erica Gaston, *Foreign Policy*, 8 March

[Failing in Afghanistan, discreetly](#), Marwan Bishara, *Al Jazeera*, 7 March – Despite hundreds of billions of dollars and thousands of troops, the US is unable to conclude its longest war

[The Department of Defense's Use of Private Security Contractors in Afghanistan and Iraq: Background, Analysis, and Options for Congress](#), Moshe Schwartz, *Congressional Research Service*, 21 February - The

number of private security contractors (PSCs) employed by the DoD in Afghanistan has reached a new record high - as of December 2010, there were 18,919 PSCs working for DOD, the highest number since DOD started tracking the data in Sept 2007. The number of PSC personnel in Afghanistan has more than tripled since June 2009

(Provincial Council members from Lashkar Gah enjoy a cup of tea with a member of the US Female Engagement Team, Marjah, 2 April – photo credit: isafmedia/flickr)



when I look at Central and Eastern Europe today, it gives me tremendous optimism for what I hope can be achieved in North Africa and the Middle East. The will of the people, not violence, will prevail. Because just over two decades ago, a wave of change also swept through this region. Your countries and your people made history. You broke free – you broke down borders – and you broke down a system that had denied you freedom and fundamental human rights

"Strengthening European security", [Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Warsaw, 17 March

Arab protests (and the implications for NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative):

[NATO head views eastern Europe as model for N.Africa](#), *Reuters Africa*, 17 March

[EU, NATO urge Bahrain to refrain from violence, resolve crisis through dialogue](#), *The Canadian Press*, 17 March

♣♣ [The Arab Lobby - How the Tiny Kingdom of Bahrain Strong-Armed the President of the United States](#), Nick Turse, *TomDispatch.com*, 15 March

[Think Again: Arab Democracy](#), Thomas Carothers, *Foreign Policy*, 10 March

[NATO Re-surfaced Map of the New Middle East](#), *The Market Oracle*, 2 March

[How NATO Can Help in the Maghreb](#), Donatella Scatamacchia, *atlantic-community.org*, 28 February – argues that the

Mediterranean Dialogue could be utilized as a framework for supporting a political transition in the Maghreb, and suggests NATO should reinforce its military cooperation to ensure maritime security

[The Arab Explosion: Questions and Options for NATO](#), Florence Gaub, Sandy Guptill, Karl-Heinz Kamp, Pierre Razoux and Rolf Schwarz, *Research Report*, NATO Defense College, 23 February - Gaub, et al. argue that with the exception of Libya under Gaddafi, NATO should continue its support for the education and modernization of the military and police forces in the region

## Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management & Humanitarian Relief:

[NATO conducts annual Crisis Management Exercise \(CMX\)](#), NATO News, 1 March - NATO conducted an annual Crisis Management Exercise (CMX) between 23-30 March. The exercise was designed to practice Alliance crisis management procedures at the strategic political level and involved civilian and military staffs in allied capitals, at NATO Headquarters, and in both Strategic Commands. Unlike a live exercise, however, no forces were actually deployed

## Cyber Security:

[NATO hammering out cyber defence policy](#), *defenceWeb*, 16 March

[NATO talks to shape future cyber defence](#), *Public Service*, 15 March

[Defence Ministers approve Cyber Defence Concept and take next step in defence reform](#), NATO News, 10 March - NATO Defence Ministers approved a new Cyber Defence Concept that will pave the way for the Alliance to step up its defences against growing cyber threats. The new Cyber Defence Concept defines the protection of NATO's own networks as the Alliance's fundamental cyber defence responsibility

## Defence Budgets, Procurement and Private Military Companies:



[Northrop Grumman Submits Final Proposal for NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance](#), *IEWY News*, 29 March; [Northrop Grumman... NATO Notified \(UAV/UAS\)](#), *Sat News Daily*, 4 April (An artist's impression of the Global Hawk RQ-4B Block 40 configured for the NATO AGS core capability- photo credit: Northrop Grumman)

[NATO's airborne surveillance: Eyes in the sky](#), NATO News, 18 March - Effective air defence is a NATO priority. The Alliance's fleet of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aeroplanes, play a key role in air

defence across the Euro-Atlantic region

[NATO nations deepen cooperation on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance](#), NATO News, 17 March - In the spirit of 'smart defence', nine Nations have launched at the end of February a five-year project that will significantly boost the Alliance's ability to tackle new challenges such as piracy by rapidly sharing imagery and other information from intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO Task Force to Seek Innovative Efficiencies](#), Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, US Department of Defense, 16 March

[NATO SEASPARROW Missile Program Selects ODIN for RFID](#), *San Francisco Chronicle*, 15 March

[As Europe Wakes to Defence Spending Shortfall, NATO Risks Losing US Investment](#), Jonathan Dowdall, *DefenceIQ*, 14 March

[NATO Defence Expenditure and 'Soft' Power](#), Martin Butcher, *NATO Monitor*, 10 March





♠♠ [Financial and Economic Data Relating to NATO Defence](#) - Defence expenditures of NATO countries (1990-2010), NATO Press Release, 10 March

[National experts agree to closer Counter-IED cooperation](#), NATO News, 9 March - Meeting in Brussels from 2 to 4 March, NATO Nations identified a number of specific areas where groups of nations could pool acquisition, training and research efforts, in order to counter the continuing threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the biggest killer of NATO troops

[NATO allies warn US on too much defense scrimping](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 5 March - While the Pentagon tightens its financial belt, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has hinted at reducing American troop levels in Europe. However, Washington must reconcile a smaller force with traditional NATO obligations

## Enlargement and Partnerships:

[Secretary General Rasmussen praises Sweden as an effective and reliable partner](#), NATO News, 31 March - Secretary General Rasmussen travelled to Sweden to discuss the excellent cooperation between NATO and Sweden. He met with H.M. King Carl XVI Gustav, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, Minister of Defence Sten Tolgfors and members of the Foreign Relations and Defence Committees. Mr. Rasmussen concluded his visit by delivering a key-note speech on "[The New NATO and Sweden's Security](#)" at the Foreign Policy Institute; also see [Joint Press point with NATO Secretary General and Swedish Prime Minister Reinfeldt](#)

SDA Report, [Getting in step: Coordinating national responses to changing security threats](#), 30 March – explores how the European External Action Service and NATO's new Emerging Security Challenges Division are seeking to "get in step" and coordinate fragmented national initiatives concerning "new" or "emerging" security challenges, such as cyber-security, critical infrastructure protection and terrorism

[Of bagpipes and capacity-building in Africa](#), NATO News, 25 March - NATO's military liaison officer to the African Union talks of his experiences



(C4ISR Senior Leaders Conference, February 2011 - US Africa Command (AFRICOM) hosted its second annual C4ISR Senior Leaders Conference at Caserma Ederle, headquarters of US Army Africa, in Vicenza, Italy – photo credit: US Army Africa/flickr)

[Secret military unit flew NATO agents](#), *Stockholm News*, 24 March - Sweden had a top secret aircraft unit, which was trained for war up until 1997. The so far unknown "Air Unit 66" exercised with NATO members Norway and Denmark, according to a new book about Sweden during the Cold War

[Serbia: Anti-Nato sentiment strong in 12th anniversary of 78-day war](#), *Adnkronos International*, 24 March

[NATO Secretary General calls for stronger partnerships during visit to Poland](#), NATO News, 17 March - The NATO Secretary General visited Warsaw and met with President Bronislaw Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk. During the visit, the Secretary General also gave a [keynote address](#) to the International Conference "Forum on Euro-Atlantic Security", organised at the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the accession to NATO of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland; [NATO Secretary General calls for stronger partnerships during visit to Poland](#), *defpro.news*, 18 March

[Roza Otunbayeva: Kyrgyzstan will continue cooperation with NATO](#), 24, 15 March

[NATO and Swedish jets cooperate to enhance safety above the Baltic Sea](#), *dvids.news*, 14 March

[Boosting the role of civilians in defence and security](#), NATO News, 9 March - Professional development programmes in Ukraine and Georgia strengthen civilian management and oversight

[NATO Secretary General congratulates Prime Minister of Montenegro on progress in important reforms](#), NATO News, 3 March; [Joint press point with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the Prime Minister of Montenegro Mr. Igor Lukšić](#), NATO News, 3 March; [The future of Montenegro lies within NATO says Secretary-General](#), *Balkans.com*, 4 March

[NATO to Help Kyrgyzstan in Anti-Terror Mission?](#) *EurasiaNet.org*, 3 March

[Ukraine, NATO readying ministerial meeting in Berlin](#), *NRCU – Ukrainian Radio*, 2 March - Ukraine and NATO have begun the practical preparations for the meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission (UNC) at the ministerial level, to be held during the meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Berlin this April

[Ukraine, NATO to assess security threats to Euro 2012](#), *Interfax*, 1 March

## Exercises – Joint Warrior (4-15 April):

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[Book Review](#) - *The Impact of NATO's New Missions on the Interests and National Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Mahmoud Mohammadi, (2010), Center for Strategic Research – CSR (Expediency Council, Tehran, in Persian), 343 pages - Reviewed by Fahimeh Ghorbani

(US forces transport displaced Egyptians from Tunisia, 10 March – photo credit: DVIDSHUB/flickr)

## Libya:

### **NATO Operational Media Update, 4 April**

#### **Mission**

On March 27, NATO decided to take control over all military operations for Libya under UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 & 1973. The aim of Operation Unified Protector is to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under attack or threat of attack. The mission consists of three elements: an arms embargo, a no-fly-zone and actions to protect civilians from attack or the threat of attack

#### **Air Operations**

*For the past decade there has been both a political and an academic discussion about "The Responsibility to Protect". This concept has now found its way into the two Security Council Resolutions on Libya: namely, the responsibility to protect the Libyan people against systematic attacks that the United Nations Security Council has said "may amount to crimes against humanity". The significance of this may have escaped the pundits - but not our publics and parliamentarians. In several countries we see support for the NATO-led operations that cuts right across the political spectrum. Because the cause speaks to us all as human beings!*

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, speech, ["The New NATO and Sweden's Security"](#), Foreign Policy Institute, 31 March



Since the beginning of the NATO operation (31 March 2011) a total of 701 sorties and 276 strike sorties\* have been conducted. (\*Strike sorties are intended to identify and engage appropriate targets, but do not necessarily deploy munitions each time).

#### **Arms Embargo Activities**

A total of 21 ships under NATO command are actively patrolling the Central Mediterranean. A total of 41 vessels have been hailed and one boarding has been conducted since the beginning of arms embargo operations.

#### **Command and Control**

NATO's operational commander for Operation Unified Protector is Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard of the Canadian Air Force. His office and staff is located at the Joint Force Command in Naples.

More information on Operation Unified Protector:

[www.jfcnaples.nato.int](http://www.jfcnaples.nato.int)

[www.manp.nato.int](http://www.manp.nato.int)

[www.nato.int/libya](http://www.nato.int/libya)

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[AU chief heads to London, Brussels for Libya talks](#), *AFP*, 3 April

[Why NATO cannot be trusted](#), David Cronin, *New Europe*, 3 April

[The limits of air power](#), Andrew Cockburn, *Los Angeles Times*, 3 April

[NATO Airstrike Reportedly Kills Rebels in Libya](#), *New York Times*, 2 April

[Sandstorms, civilian worries hit NATO Libya sorties](#), *Reuters Africa*, 1 April

♠♠ [NATO Warns Rebels Against Attacking Civilians](#), *New York Times*, 31 March

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[40 civilians reportedly killed in NATO air strikes on Tripoli](#), *New York Daily News*, 31 March

[NATO takes command in Libya air operations](#), *NATO News*, 31 March

[NATO says investigates reports of Tripoli casualties](#), *Reuters Africa*, 31 March

[Gaddafi regime ordered to appear before Africa's highest court](#), *The Guardian*, 30 March - African court on human and peoples' rights accuses regime of killing peaceful demonstrators; [Libya: African Rights Court Issues First Ruling Against a State](#), Human Rights Watch, Press Release, 30 March - Libya Ordered Immediately to End Threats to Life, People's Security

[NATO's operation in Libya, Inter-Organizational Interests & a request for a new security framework](#), Marios Panagiotis Efthymiopoulos, *Europe's World*, 30 March

♣♣ [Libya conflict: reactions around the world](#), *The Guardian*, 30 March - The UN security council may have sanctioned air strikes, but they are viewed with ambivalence in most countries

[EU, not NATO, should lead on Libya](#), Sarwar Kashmeri, Foreign Policy Association Op-Ed, 30 March

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[NATO in Libya: 'Unified Protector' hides divisions](#), *AFP*, 30 March - Analysts say that NATO should overcome divisions to achieve its mission in Libya

[NATO mission in Libya remains unclear](#), Jeremy Colangelo, *Brock Press*, 29 March

[London agreement sends strong message, says NATO Secretary General](#), *NATO News*, 29 March - Today's creation in London of an international Contact Group on Libya is a strong expression of international community support for the Libyan people's wish for freedom, democracy and human rights, says NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The group will give political guidance to the international community's actions in response to the Libyan crisis

*We had a unique ability to stop that violence: an international mandate for action, a broad coalition prepared to join us, the support of Arab countries, and a plea for help from the Libyan people themselves. We also had the ability to stop Gaddafi's forces in their tracks without putting American troops on the ground.....*

*If we tried to overthrow Gaddafi by force, our coalition would splinter. We would likely have to put US troops on the ground, or risk killing many civilians from the air. The dangers faced by our men and women in uniform would be far greater. So would the costs, and our share of the responsibility for what comes next.*

*To be blunt, we went down that road in Iraq. Thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our troops and the determination of our diplomats, we are hopeful about Iraq's future. But regime change there took eight years, thousands of American and Iraqi lives, and nearly a trillion dollars. That is not something we can afford to repeat in Libya.*

[Obama's Remarks on Libya](#), 28 March

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(The art room, 25 February- photo credit: Al Jazeera English/Flickr)

[Anti-War, But Supporting Obama on Libya](#), Tom Matzzie, *Huffington Post*, 28 March





♣♣ [Operation Odyssey Dawn \(Libya\): Background and Issues for Congress](#), Congressional Research Service, 28 March - the first six days of Odyssey Dawn, the US war in Libya, cost an estimated \$400 million, according to this report. "U.S. participation in Operation Odyssey Dawn and NATO operations around Libya raises a number of questions for Congress, including the role of Congress in authorizing the use of force, the costs of the operation, the desired politico-strategic end state, the role of U.S. military forces in an operation under international command, and many others"

[Attack on Libya May Unleash a Long War](#), Phyllis Bennis, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 28 March

[NATO takes control of military campaign in Libya: Germany and Turkey seek to narrow the scope of the air campaign](#), *NATO Watch News Brief*, 28 March

♣♣ [Libyan Karzai? Chalabi? Forget it](#), Marwan Bishara, *Al Jazeera*, 28 March

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[Statement by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen on Libya](#), NATO Press Release, 27 March

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[The shape of Libya's 'better future' remains elusive](#), Simon

Tisdall, *The Guardian*,

28 March - How can western allies define a 'better future' for Libya, while there is still fighting and the outcome is so uncertain?

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[Welcome to the new NATO quagmire](#), Pepe Escobar, *Asia Times*, 26 March

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*I want the American people to know that the use of force is not our first choice, and it's not a choice that I make lightly. But we can't stand idly by when a tyrant tells his people that there will be no mercy.*

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(Protest against US military actions in Libya, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2 April – photo credit: Fibonacci Blue /Flickr)

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[Berlusconi Hedges Bets on Libya War Outcome by Pushing for NATO Takeover](#), *Bloomberg*, 23 March

[Italy repeats call for NATO control of Libya mission](#), *Reuters Africa*, 22 March

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[Italy Wants EU-NATO Sea Operation to Fend Off North African Migration](#), *Novinite.com*, 10 March

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[Libyans 'would prefer Nato not to be involved'](#), *BBC News 'Hardtalk'* interview with Lakhdar Brahimi, former senior adviser to UN and Arab League, 9 March

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(USS Barry launches Tomahawk Against Libya, Mediterranean Sea, 29 March – photo credit: flickr)

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[Gadhafi's warplanes attack as rebels desperately train to shoot them down](#), *msnbc.com*, 3 March - 'Bring Bush! Make a no-fly zone' rebel fighter pleads; Libya holds 3 NATO soldiers captured during rescue mission

[NATO Team Deploys To Libya To Assess Feasibility Of No-Fly Zone](#), *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 2 March

[Ali Ahmida: A U.S. or NATO intervention would be opposed by the vast majority of Libyans](#), *CNN*, 2 March

(Royal Marine Boarding Teams Practice Anti Piracy Operations – photo credit: UK MoD/flickr)



## Maritime Security and Piracy:

Since the launch of NATO's first Article 5 operation - Operation Active Endeavour – in October 2001 and its counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa (October 2008), it has drafted a new Alliance Maritime Strategy to further institutionalize operational flexibility and strengthen the ties between NATO countries and its partners. This strategy

was adopted in January 2011, in full consistency with the 2010 Strategic Concept, and has now been posted to the NATO web site – it can be downloaded [here](#)

[An inside look at Nato's £160m deep-sea search and rescue boat](#), *Scottish Daily Record*, 3 April

[Slowing Alliance - NATO's New Maritime Strategy and the Need for Reform](#), Felix Seidler, *RUSI*, March 2011 - Despite NATO's new Alliance Maritime Strategy, the protracted discussion around how best to respond to events in Libya means that Alliance solidarity and the need for reforms are increasingly important issues.

[Boarding a Pirate Ship Is Drudgery in NATO Video Game](#), *Wired News (blog)*, 8 March

## Missile Defence:

[U.S. Places \\$695M Missile Defense Order](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 31 March

[RF, NATO to discuss coop'n on ABM in Brussels Wed](#), *ITAR-TASS*, 30 March

[US begins fielding European missile defence technology while congressional auditors call for greater transparency](#), *NATO Watch News Brief*, 29 March

[NATO, Russia to Relaunch Battlefield Antimissile Exercises](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 28 March

[Missile defence: the missing piece of the puzzle](#), Steve Andreasen, *The Guardian*, 26 March - The reset of relations between the US, Russia and Nato creates a new chance to tackle the vexed issue of missile shields

### European Phased Adaptive Approach for Missile Defense

The September 2009 shift in focus for European missile defense represents a significant change in U.S. policy and a substantial investment for DOD. However, DOD has not fully implemented a management process that synchronizes European missile defense acquisition activities and ensures transparency and accountability. Without key management and oversight processes, there is a limited basis for oversight, and there is a risk that key components will start production before demonstrating system performance. In the past, similar deficiencies in missile defense acquisition oversight have led to rework, cost increases, delays, and doubts about delivered capabilities.

♣♣ [Missile Defense: Actions Needed to Improve Transparency and Accountability](#), US Government Accountability Office, March 2011; also see [GAO Urges Steps on Missile Defense Operations](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 28 March



[MEADS Air Defense Program Lives On](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 March

[Gates Makes Missile Defense Offer to Russia](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 March

[U.S. Diplomat Hopeful for NATO-Russia Missile Defense Cooperation](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 March

[U.S. Awards \\$230M Missile Target Contract](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 March



(Patriot missile firing from NATO base on Crete – photo credit: NATO)

[Biden, Medvedev Hold Missile Defense Talks](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 10 March

[Russia Lashes U.S. Antimissile Plans for Poland](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 March

[US warship deploys to Mediterranean to protect Europe from ballistic missiles](#), *The Canadian Press*, 7 March

[ThalesRaytheonSystems to supply NATO with Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence Capabilities](#), *defpro*, 7 March

[U.S. Could Provide Russia Early Missile Threat Info](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 4 March

[MEADS Project to Receive \\$800M More From U.S.](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 3 March

[Milestone Nears for European Missile Defense Plan](#), *US Department of Defense*, 2 March

['No-targeting' pact key to missile defense deal with NATO - Lavrov](#), *RIA Novosti*, 2 March

[U.S. Says Radar Ship Deployment Part Of Missile-Defense Shield](#), *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 2 March

## NATO Defence Ministers Meeting, Brussels 10-11 March:

NATO Defence Ministers Meeting, Brussels, 10-11 March – Largely overtaken by the Libyan crisis (see above) NATO defence ministers also discussed missile defence, cyber security, NATO reform and Afghanistan. Outcomes:

- *missile defence* - ministers agreed on the development of consultation, command and control arrangements
- *NATO reform* - details of the structure of the new NATO agencies and their geographic footprint were discussed. The goal is to take a final decision no later than the June ministerial (The Lisbon Summit agreed to reduce the number of agencies from 14 to three, covering the major functions of procurement, support and communications and information). On NATO's military command structure, ministers held a first discussion on the geographic distribution of headquarters; and again, the mandate given at Lisbon is to reach an agreement by the June ministerial.
- *Afghanistan* - the Defence ministers were briefed on the campaign progress and reviewed progress and preparations for the start of 'transition'
- *cyber security* - ministers approved a new Cyber Defence Concept that will pave the way for the Alliance to step up its defences against growing cyber threats. The new Cyber Defence Concept defines the protection of NATO's own networks as the Alliance's fundamental cyber defence responsibility. Ministers of Defence are expected to approve a renewed NATO Cyber Defence Policy and a Cyber Defence Action at their next meeting in June.

*Frankly, there is too much talk about leaving and not enough talk about getting the job done right. Too much discussion of exit and not enough discussion about continuing the fight. Too much concern about when and how many troops might redeploy, and not enough about what needs to be done before they leave.*

[Statement](#) to NATO Defense Ministers, as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, 11 March

[NATO endorses plan for Afghan forces to take over several areas](#), *Washington Post*, 11 March

[Gates Chastises European Allies as NATO Cites Afghan Advances](#), *Bloomberg*, 11 March

[NATO allies vow not to rush for Afghan exit](#), *AFP*, 11 March

[Afghan Lead One Step Closer](#), *NATO News*, 11 March - Defence Ministers of the 48 ISAF troop contributing nations met in Brussels and took a crucial step towards the implementation of Transition - the process by which security responsibility for Afghanistan is gradually transferred to Afghan leadership

[NATO defence ministers meet to endorse Afghan transition plan](#), *The Canadian Press*, 11 March

[NATO Defence Ministers gather for two-day meeting in Brussels](#), NATO News, 10 March - the evolving situation in Libya was at the top of the agenda

[Is A Libyan Delegation Headed to NATO Meeting Tomorrow?](#) *ABC News (blog)*, 9 March

[NATO tackles Afghan handover](#), *The Australian*, 9 March

[Press Briefing](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen preceding the March NATO Defence Ministerial Meeting, NATO News, 7 March

## NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

[The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 76th Rose-Roth Seminar concludes in Tbilisi](#), NATO PA Press Release, 26 March - Participants in the 76th Rose-Roth seminar (23-25 March) learned about Georgia's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

[Experts Say Barzani's NATO Award No Boost for Kurdish Independence](#), *Rudaw*, 24 March - Iraqi Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani received the Atlantic Award for Peace from the NATO PA in Rome

[NATO Parliamentarians discuss regional security issues in Turkey](#), NATO PA Press Release, 22 March - Turkey's foreign and security priorities and regional security issues, as well as Afghanistan, the situation in the Middle East and NATO after the Lisbon Summit were the main issues discussed during the 14-16 March visit of a delegation of NATO Parliamentarians to Ankara

## NATO-Russia Relations:

[Russia supports NATO success in Afghanistan - Serdyukov](#), *RIA Novosti*, 22 March

[Russia Objects to NATO "Propaganda" in Georgian Schools](#), *EurasiaNet*, 18 March

[Russia and NATO develop joint counterterrorist system](#), *RIA Novosti*, 11 March



## Nuclear Weapons:

[Polish, Turkish Experts Open to U.S. Withdrawing Nukes From Europe](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 31, March

♣♣ [Withdrawal Issues: What NATO countries say about the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe](#), Susi Snyder & Wilbert van der Zeijden, IKV Pax Christi, The Netherlands, March 2011

[NATO's Nuclear Deterrence Posture and Baltic Security](#), BASIC Online, 25 March -

BASIC and the International Centre for Defence Studies convened a roundtable on 15 March in Tallinn, Estonia to discuss the dimensions of involved in NATO's deterrence and defence posture review

[Ecumenicals say NATO should remove US nuclear weapons from Europe](#), *Christian Today*, 17 March - The World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches say NATO should rethink deterrence and security cooperation in Europe; [Churches urge NATO to remove all nuclear weapons from Europe](#), *Ekklesia*, 17 March; see the Conference of European Churches [press release](#); World Council of Churches [statement](#); and National Council of Churches [statement](#)

[Dutch Senate adopts motion on reduction of nuclear weapons](#), Laura Adèr and Peter Paul Ekker, IKV Pax Christi, *NATO Watch News Brief*, 11 March

[Security by Mass Destruction? The Churches' Voice](#), Laurens Hogebrink, *NATO Watch Comment*, 11 March

*Any president could, on his own, leave a room, and in 25 minutes, 70 million (or more than that) would be dead. Not likely but in the new, more unstable, multi-polar nuclear age we've entered, Maj. Hering's question about the instability or sanity of the president himself remains valid, as does the larger sanity question: Can any order to kill 20 million with the twist of a wrist be sane?*

*...we have risked the fate of the earth, the fate of the species, on the mental stability of a few ambitious politicians who rise to the top of the heap, not necessarily because of their rationality. There is no foolproof command and control system.*

♣♣ [An Unsung Hero of the Nuclear Age](#) - Maj. Harold Hering and the forbidden question that cost him his career. Ron Rosenbaum, *Slate*, 28 February

[NATO's Defence & Deterrence Posture Review](#), Susi Snyder and Wilbert van der Zeijden, IKV Pax Christi, *NATO Watch Comment*, 11 March

♠♠ [Deterrence in the Age of Nuclear Proliferation](#) - The doctrine of mutual assured destruction is obsolete in the post-Cold War era, George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn, *Wall Street Journal*, 7 March - the fourth of a series of op-eds by the four statesmen. The series addresses how the United States, with other nations, can work to reverse reliance on nuclear weapons, prevent their spread into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately end them as a threat to the world

♠♠ [Visions for a New Century](#) is a short film taken at a BASIC event hosted at Brian Eno's studio in 2010. It includes a collection of interviews around the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with Peter Gabriel, Rory Bremner, Des Browne, Joe Cirincione, Baroness Shirley Williams and Brian Eno

## Transparency and Accountability - Wikileaks:

♠♠ [In defense of disclosure - How overclassification is stifling government transparency, and what can be done about it](#), Daniel Skallman, *The News Media & The Law*, Winter 2011, Vol.35 No.1

[Unnecessary Secrets - Opening government, from Ellsberg to Manning](#), Sanford J. Ungar, *Columbia Journalism Review*, March/April 2011

[Monterey hosts landmark conference on "Building Integrity"](#), NATO News, 3 March - More than 150 high-level participants from the military and civilian spheres gathered in Monterey, California, from 23 to 25 February to share experiences on how best to fight against corruption in the defence and security sector

## Upcoming Events:

(photo credit: ex.libris/flickr)

Global Day of Action Against Military Spending, 12 April - The [International Peace Bureau](#) and the [Institute for Policy Studies](#) have joined together to organize a [Global Day of Action Against Military Spending](#) to coincide with the release of the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's annual report](#), which includes the latest new figures on [military expenditures around the world](#). Click [here](#) to find an event in your city to support or organize your own event using the [organizer's packet](#)



[NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting](#), Berlin, 14-15 April - The Foreign ministers will focus broadly on partnerships with the aim of agreeing a new partnership policy and to give substance to the Afghanistan-NATO enduring partnership agreement that was signed in Lisbon

[Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities](#), workshop organised by The Madariaga – College of Europe Foundation (MCF) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), Brussels, 12-13 May. The event is part of the programme "*Building coherence, skills and synergies in conflict prevention*", organised jointly by MCF and FBA to reinforce the cooperation and to evolve a closer interaction between representatives of the international community towards more concrete dialogue on conflict prevention. Organised with the support of the Hungarian Presidency of the EU, and in close cooperation with the European External Action Service and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

NATO Defence Ministers Meeting, Brussels, 9-10 June – Ministers are expected to endorse a missile defence action plan and assess the progress of the joint analysis on how NATO and Russia can cooperate on missile defence

[Twelfth RUSI Missile Defence Conference](#), London, 15-16 June 2011 - RUSI's first public opportunity to discuss NATO's decision to develop a missile defence capability as envisaged in the newly adopted Strategic Concept, enhanced cooperation with Russia and missile threats emanating from the Middle East and elsewhere



## Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: darkmatter/flickr)

### Canada

[NATO cancels Labrador exercise again](#), *CBC news*, 16 March

[F-35 purchase could prove costly for Canada](#), *Financial Times*, 11 March



Ottawa under the gun to specify Afghan training mission as slots fill up, *Winnipeg Free Press*, 6 March

1 April 2011: MONTREAL PREMIERE of **THE WEIGHT OF CHAINS**

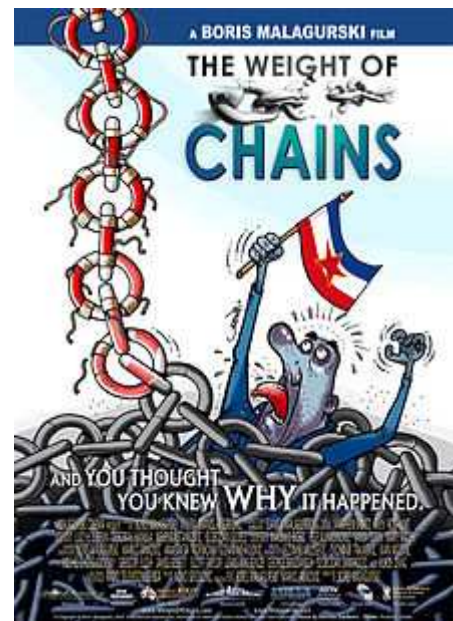
Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qi50Mun4RA>

**"The true story behind NATO intervention in the Balkans"**

#### **About the Film**

**"The Weight of Chains** is a Canadian documentary film that takes a critical look at the role that the US, NATO and the EU played in the tragic breakup of a once peaceful and prosperous European state - Yugoslavia. The film is a poignant first-hand look at why the West intervened in the Yugoslav conflict, with an impressive roster of interviews with academics, diplomats, media personalities and ordinary citizens of the former Yugoslav republics".

Find out more about the film: <http://www.weightofchains.com>



### **Czech Republic**

**Poll: Three-fifths satisfied with ČR's NATO membership**, *Prague*

*Daily Monitor*, 16 March - Almost three-fifths of Czechs or 59 percent are satisfied with the Czech Republic's NATO membership, one-fifth (22 percent) are dissatisfied and 19 percent are undecided, according to a CVVM poll conducted in January

**Military police raid against Czech Television excessive and unacceptable, says OSCE Media Freedom Representative**, OSCE Press Release, 16 March

### **France**

**France confirms hacker attack on finance ministry**, *GSN Magazine*, 7 March

### **Hungary**

**Despite adjustments, Hungary's media law continues to violate OSCE commitments, says OSCE representative on freedom of the media**, OSCE Press Release, 8 March

### **Italy**

**OSCE Media Representative condemns intimidation of journalists in Italy**, OSCE Press Release, 14 March

**Frattini: listen to Arab League for no-fly zone over Libya**, *Agenzia Giomalistica Italia*, 5 March

**Turmoil in Libya Poses Threat to Italy's Economy**, *New York Times*, 5 March

### **Lithuania**

**AP interview: Lithuania's 'Steel Magnolia' defends maverick approach to foreign policy**, *Associated Press*, 15 March

### **Netherlands**

**Qaddafi Forces Capture 3 Dutch Aviators**, *New York Times*, 3 March

### **Poland**

**NATO Secretary General in Warsaw for talks**, *thenews.pl*, 17 March - the NATO Secretary General paid a one day visit to Warsaw to coincide with the 12th anniversary of Poland's NATO accession on 12 March

**Polish Defence Build-up Trumps Eastern Alliances as Bidding Wars Commence**, *DefenceIQ.com*, 8 March - Poland is unique among major Euro states in that its most pressing defence priority is homeland security

### **Turkey**

**Turkey frets over Libyan crisis, ponders post-Gaddafi era**, *Today's Zaman*, 6 March

**OSCE media representative concerned about unprecedented persecution of journalists in Turkey**, OSCE Press Release, 3 March

### **United Kingdom**

♠♠ **The impact of overseas conflict on UK communities**, Michael Collyer, Naluwembe Binaisa, Kaveri Qureshi, Lyndsay McLean Hilker, Ceri Oeppen, Julie Vullnetari and Benjamin Zeitlyn, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, March 2011

[Every copy of Afghanistan war book bought and pulped by MoD](#), *The Guardian*, 15 March - New edition of *Dead Men Risen* with sections removed to be published after military claims book of memos could harm national security

[Defence Minister Luff Addresses Successes and Failures of Defence Review Process](#), Speech delivered to the RUSI/ Cranfield conference on Defence Acquisition Reform at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Shrivenham, 15 March

[BAE Systems signs up for UK-French drone](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 14 March - BAE Systems has signed an agreement with French defence company Dassault to build a self-piloting drone which will be used by both countries' air forces

[GCHQ aims to protect critical private networks from hackers](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 8 March - GCHQ is planning to constantly monitor Britain's most vital private computer networks for potentially damaging cyber attacks, in a major expansion of the Cheltenham-based spy agency's responsibilities

[UK and Libya: Fumbling in the desert](#), *The Guardian*, editorial, 7 March - Britain is misjudging what is unfolding in the Middle East



[UK defence chiefs warn over Libya operation](#), *Financial Times*, 6 March

♣♣ [Explode this SAS mystique](#), Richard-Norton Taylor, *The Guardian*, 6 March - The botched operation in Libya reveals how official SAS secrecy encourages a gung-ho arrogance

[NATO Navy-based submarine rescue system goes airborne](#), *defpro*, 4 March - the NATO Submarine Rescue System (NSRS), which is based at HM Naval Base Clyde in Scotland, was deployed by air for the first time last week to be a part of a major exercise in Norway (Part of the NATO Submarine Rescue System being loaded onto a C-17 –photo credit: UK MoD)

[UK to cut forces by 11,000](#), *Financial Times*, 1 March - 5,000 will be from the army, 3,300 from the Royal Navy and 2,700 from the Royal Air Force - some British soldiers will lose their jobs six months after they return from Afghanistan

[RAF sets out plans to cut 1,000 jobs in six months](#), *The Guardian*, 1 March - RAF begins redundancy programme required by defence review and will disband two Tornado fighter squadrons by June

## United States

[What Happened to the American Declaration of War?](#) George Friedman, STRATFOR, 29 March

[Why is US withholding old documents on covert ops in Congo, Iran?](#) Stephen Weissman, *The Christian Science Monitor*, 25 March - the State Department has failed to release key historical documents on US action in Iran and Congo. The issue isn't just that Americans have a right to know their history; they need to know it. These records could promote peacemaking and inform key foreign policy decisions

[Air Force to Fly Hypersonic Aircraft in Global Strike Test](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 24 March

♣♣ [U.S. Africa Command Seen Taking Key Role](#), *New York Times*, 21 March

[Declarations of War and Authorizations for the Use of Military Force: Historical Background and Legal Implications](#), Jennifer K. Elsea and Richard F. Grimmett, Congressional Research Service, 17 March – "From the Washington Administration to the present, Congress and the President have enacted 11 separate formal declarations of war against foreign nations in five different wars", according to this CRS report. Yet there have been hundreds of US military engagements over the past two centuries

♣♣ [Taking the "War" Out of War - What U.S. Air Power Actually Does](#), Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 17 March

[House to vote on Afghan troop withdrawal](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 17 March; [House rejects call to leave Afghanistan in 2011](#), *Reuters*, 17 March - the House of Representatives rejected a call for all US forces to leave Afghanistan this year, endorsing more time for President Obama's surge strategy to work despite waning public support for the war. Ninety-three lawmakers, most of them Democrats, voted for the pullout resolution that was written by mavericks in both parties, while 321 voted against it. Only eight members of

the House Republican majority, which has generally backed Obama's strategy on Afghanistan, voted for the withdrawal

#### Total Intelligence Budget for 2007-2009

[Disclosed](#), *Secrecy News (blog)*, 16 March - Military intelligence budget figures that were disclosed last week document the steady rise of the total US intelligence budget from \$63.5 billion in 2007 up to last year's total of \$80.1 billion

[US special forces ops in Central Asia - Keeping Islamic Militants in Check](#), Deirdre Tynan, *EurasiaNet.org*, 15 March

[Administration Refused More Than a Third of FOIA Requests Last Year](#), *CNS News*, 14 March  
[Stripped naked every night, Bradley Manning tells of prison ordeal](#), *The Guardian*, 11 March - US

soldier held on suspicion of leaking state secrets speaks out for first time about experience; also see, [I'm Proud of P.J. Crowley](#), William Astore, *Huffington Post*, 13 March; [P.J. Crowley and the limits of openness](#), *Secrecy News (blog)*, Volume 2011, Issue No. 24, 14 March (Free Bradley Manning Rally – photo credit: mar is sea Y /flickr)



[Elite U.S. Counterterror Forces Facing Cuts](#), Marc Ambinder, *National Journal*, 11 March

♠♠ [Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-2010](#), Congressional Research Service, 10 March - US military forces have been deployed in military conflicts abroad hundreds of times over the past two centuries -- not including covert actions or training exercises

[US Navy ill-prepared for new Arctic frontier: study](#), *Spacewar*, 10 March

[The Embarrassments of Empire - Washington Wonders What to Say about Arab Freedom](#), David Bromwich, *TomDispatch.com*, 10 March

*In recent days and weeks the US government has condemned human rights abuses and repression in almost every country across the Middle East – yet at a prison within its own borders it sanctions the persecution, alleged psychological torture and debasement of a young soldier who appears to have made a principled choice in the name of progress*

[Bradley Manning and the stench of US hypocrisy](#), Ryan Gallagher, *The Guardian*, 4 March

♠♠ [How to Take Proper Aim at a Target Rich Environment](#), David Isenberg, *Huffington Post*, 8 March – Book Review of [The Pentagon Labyrinth - 10 Short Essays to Help You Through It](#), From 10 Pentagon Insiders, Retired Military Officers and Specialists With Over 400 Years of Defense Experience, Edited by Winslow T. Wheeler, Center for Defense Information, World Security Institute, February 2011

[Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operations in Cyberspace](#), Congressional Research Service, 8 March

[Report: No U.S. Decision Yet on Adopting EU Space Code](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 March

[America's secret plan to arm Libya's rebels](#), Robert Fisk, *The Independent*, 7 March - Obama asks Saudis to airlift weapons into Benghazi

♠♠ [\(N\)ever Again - Old Secretaries of Defense Never Die, They Just Write Bestselling Memoirs](#), Tom Engelhardt, *TomsDispatch.com*, 6 March

♠♠ [The Real U.S. National Security Budget - The Figure No One Wants You to See](#), Chris Hellman, *TomDispatch.com*, 1 March - the real bill for the total US national security budget actually adds up to more than \$1.2 trillion a year

## 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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