

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Study Guide

Most Valuable Prospective Delegates,

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Should any questions arise please do not hesitate to contact me directly as I will be very keen to respond.

Sincerely,

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I. PREFACE

This guide has been reproduced to serve as a starter guide for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) committee. The committee will follow an open agenda scheme, hence the delegates are kindly urged to further carry on their research in lieu of their country allocation, political and military stance due to the highly demanding nature of the committee.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. What is NATO?



The foundations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were officially laid down on 4th April 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty,

more popularly known as the Washington Treaty. The Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence. Collective defence is at the heart of the Washington Treaty and is enshrined in Article 5. It commits members to protect each other and sets a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.

B. The Political Context of the Alliance

The hostilities that had characterized relations between soviet and western powers since 1917 gradually re-emerged at the end of the Second World War. This “East-West” divide was fuelled by conflicting interests and political ideologies. There were clashes over peace agreements and reparations, and tensions were exacerbated by events such as the Berlin blockade in April 1948, the June 1948 coup in Czechoslovakia and direct threats to the sovereignty of Norway, Greece and Turkey.

As the power of the Soviet Union spread to several Eastern European countries, there was concern among Western European countries that the USSR would impose its ideology and authority across Europe. From 1945, Western governments started reducing their defence establishments and demobilizing

their forces. But in January 1948, British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin spoke of the need for a “treaty of alliance and mutual assistance”, a defensive alliance and a regional grouping within the framework of the UN Charter.

The United States would only agree to provide military support for Europe if it were united. In response, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, signed the Brussels Treaty in March 1948, creating the Western Union. Designed to strengthen ties between the signatories while providing for a common defence system, the Brussels Treaty ultimately became the basis for the Washington Treaty.

In the meantime, the US Senate adopted the Vandenberg Resolution – a resolution that would change the course of American foreign policy since it allowed the United States to constitutionally participate in a mutual defence system in times of peace.

The ground was set for negotiations to start on a transatlantic treaty.

The talks on what would become the Washington Treaty took place between the powers of the Brussels Treaty (except Luxembourg, which was represented by Belgium) plus the United States and Canada. Representatives from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States constituted the core drafting team, but participants from other countries also contributed to the initial discussions, with the assistance of a working group. What has been coined as the “six-power talks” gave birth to the Washington Paper, issued 9 September 1948, which contained an outline of possible future articles for the Treaty.

Formal public treaty negotiations began 10 December 1948 with the Ambassadors Committee in Washington, D.C. For these talks, Luxembourg sent

its own representative. Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal and Italy were later invited to the final sessions of negotiations, which began 8 March 1949. Although the participating countries agreed that collective defence would be at the heart of the new Alliance, several other issues were still not resolved and needed to be worked out before the formation of the Alliance could become a reality.

C. The Treaty and its Fundamental Values and Principles

Once Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States came to an agreement on the various areas of contention, they drafted a new document that would establish the North Atlantic Alliance.

On 4 April 1949, the 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty in the city which lends the Treaty its nickname: Washington D.C.

The treaty committed each member to share the risk, responsibilities and benefits of collective security and required them not to enter into any international commitments that conflicted with the Treaty. It also committed them to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and stated that NATO members formed a unique community of values committed to the principles of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In addition to collective defence and key values, the principle of consensus decision-making and the importance of consultation define the spirit of the Organization, together with its defensive nature and its flexibility.

D. Member Countries



At present, NATO has 28 members. In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. The other

member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia (2004), and Albania and Croatia (2009).

III. NATO'S ESSENTIAL CORE TASKS AND PRINCIPLES

NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means. Collective defence is at the heart of the Alliance and creates a spirit of solidarity and cohesion among its members. NATO strives to secure a lasting peace in Europe, based on common values of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Since the outbreak of crises and conflicts beyond the borders of NATO member countries can jeopardize this objective, the Alliance also contributes to peace and stability through crisis management operations and partnerships. Essentially, NATO not only helps to defend the territory of its members, but engages where possible and when necessary to project its values further afield, prevent crises, manage crises, stabilize post-conflict situations and support reconstruction.

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NATO also embodies the transatlantic link by which the security of North America is tied to the security of Europe. It is an intergovernmental organization which provides a forum where members can consult together on any issues they may choose to raise and take decisions on political and military matters affecting their security. No single member country is forced to rely solely on its national capabilities to meet its essential national security objectives. The resulting sense of shared security among members contributes to stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

NATO's fundamental security tasks are laid down in the Washington Treaty. They are sufficiently general to withstand the test of time and are translated into more detail in strategic concepts. Strategic concepts are the authoritative statement of the Alliance's objectives and provide the highest level of guidance on the political and military means to be used in achieving these goals; they remain the basis for the implementation of Alliance policy as a whole.

During the Cold War, NATO focused on collective defence and the protection of its members from potential threats emanating from the Soviet Union. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, along with the rise of non-state actors affecting international security, many new security threats emerged. NATO now focuses on countering these threats by utilizing collective defence, managing crisis situations and encouraging cooperative security, as outlined in the 2010 Strategic Concept.

A. Collective defence.

The principle of collective defence is at the very heart of NATO's founding treaty. It remains a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.

Collective defence means that an attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies. The principle of collective defence is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time in its history after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States. NATO has taken collective defence measures on several occasions, for instance in response to the situation in Syria and in the wake of the Ukraine crisis. NATO has standing forces on active duty that contribute to the Alliance's collective defence efforts on a permanent basis.

B. Crisis Management

NATO has a unique and robust set of political and military capabilities to address the full spectrum of crises – before, during and after conflicts. NATO will actively employ an appropriate mix of those political and military tools to help manage developing crises that have the potential to affect Alliance security, before they escalate into conflicts; to stop ongoing conflicts where they affect Alliance security; and to help consolidate stability in post-conflict situations where that contributes to Euro-Atlantic security.

C. Cooperative security

The Alliance is affected by, and can affect, political and security developments beyond its borders. The Alliance will engage actively to enhance international security, through partnership with relevant countries and other international organisations; by contributing actively to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament; and by keeping the door of membership in the Alliance open to all European democracies that meet NATO's standards.”

IV. POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

All NATO decisions are made by consensus, after discussion and consultation among member countries. A decision reached by consensus is an agreement reached by common consent, a decision that is accepted by each member country. This means that when a "NATO decision" is announced, it is the expression of the collective will of all the sovereign states that are members of the Alliance.

This principle is applied at every committee level, and demonstrates clearly that NATO decisions are collective decisions made by its member countries.

V. PEACE-SUPPORT AND CRISIS-MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

A. NATO Operations and Missions

NATO is an active and leading contributor to peace and security on the international stage. It promotes democratic values and is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. However, if diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis-management operations, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations. Through its crisis-management operations, the Alliance demonstrates both its willingness to act as a positive force for change and its capacity to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

Since its first major peace-support operation in the Balkans in the early 1990s, the tempo and diversity of NATO operations have increased. NATO has been engaged in missions that cover the full spectrum of crisis-management operations – from deterrence and peacekeeping, to training and logistics support, to surveillance and humanitarian relief. Today, approximately 18,000 military personnel are engaged in NATO missions around the world, managing often complex ground, air and naval operations in all types of environment. They are currently operating in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and the Mediterranean and off the Horn of Africa. NATO is also assisting the African Union, conducting air policing missions on the request of NATO member countries and supporting Turkey's air defence system with the deployment of Patriot missiles

B. Current operations and missions

NATO in Afghanistan

NATO is currently leading Resolute Support, a non-combat mission which provides training, advice and assistance to Afghan security forces and institutions. Resolute Support was launched on 1 January 2015. It includes approximately 12,000 personnel from both NATO and partner countries and operates with one hub (in Kabul/Bagram) and four spokes in Mazar-e Sharif (northern Afghanistan), Herat (western Afghanistan), Kandahar (southern Afghanistan) and Laghman (eastern Afghanistan).

Key functions include: supporting planning, programming and budgeting; assuring transparency, accountability and oversight; supporting the adherence to the principles of rule of law and good governance; supporting the establishment and sustainment of processes such as force generation, recruiting, training, managing and development of personnel.

The legal basis of the Resolute Support Mission rests on a formal invitation from the Afghan Government and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between NATO and Afghanistan, which governs the presence of our troops. Resolute Support is also supported by the international community at large. This is reflected in the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2189, unanimously adopted on 12 December 2014. This resolution welcomes the new Resolute Support mission and underscores the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan.

Resolute Support is a follow-on mission to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). ISAF was under NATO leadership from August 2003 to December 2014. It was established under a request for assistance by the Afghan authorities and by a UN mandate in 2001 to prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for terrorists. In addition, ISAF was tasked to develop new Afghan security forces and enable Afghan authorities to provide effective security across the country in order to create an environment conducive to the functioning of democratic institutions and the establishment of the rule of law.

The mission in Afghanistan constitutes the Alliance's most significant operational commitment to date. Moreover, beyond Resolute Support and ISAF, Allies and partner's countries are committed to the broader international community's support for the long-term financial sustainment of the Afghan security forces. NATO leaders have also reaffirmed their commitment to an enduring partnership between NATO and Afghanistan, by strengthening political consultations and practical cooperation within the framework of the NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership signed in 2010.

NATO in Kosovo

While Afghanistan remains NATO's primary operational theatre, the Alliance has not faltered on its other commitments, particularly in the Balkans. Today, approximately 4,500 Allied troops operate in Kosovo as part of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Having first entered Kosovo in June 1999 to end widespread violence and halt the humanitarian disaster, KFOR troops continue to maintain a strong presence

throughout the territory, preserving the peace that was imposed by NATO 15 years ago.

Following Kosovo's declaration of independence in February 2008, NATO agreed it would continue to maintain its presence on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244. It has since helped to create a professional and multi-ethnic Kosovo Security Force, which is a lightly armed force responsible for security tasks that are not appropriate for the police. Meanwhile, progress has been achieved in the European Union-sponsored dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. The normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo is key to solving the political deadlock over northern Kosovo.

Monitoring the Mediterranean Sea

NATO operations are not limited only to zones of conflict. In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, NATO immediately began to take measures to expand the options available to counter the threat of international terrorism. In October 2001, it launched the maritime surveillance operation Active Endeavour, focused on detecting and deterring terrorist activity in the Mediterranean.

Since April 2003, NATO has been systematically boarding suspect ships. This boarding's take place with the compliance of the ships' masters and flag states and in accordance with international law.

The increased NATO presence in these waters has benefited all shipping travelling through the Straits of Gibraltar by improving perceptions of security. More generally, the operation has proved to be an effective tool both in safeguarding a strategic maritime region and in countering terrorism on and from

the high seas. Additionally, the experience and partnerships developed through Operation Active Endeavour have considerably enhanced NATO's capabilities in this increasingly vital aspect of operations.

Counter-piracy off the Horn of Africa

Building on previous counter-piracy missions conducted by NATO (Operation Allied Provider and Operation Allied Protector - see below), Operation Ocean Shield is focusing on at-sea counter-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa. Approved on 17 August 2009 by the North Atlantic Council, this operation is contributing to international efforts to combat piracy in the area. It is also offering, to regional states that request it, assistance in developing their own capacity to combat piracy activities.

Supporting the African Union

Well beyond the Euro-Atlantic region, the Alliance continues to support the African Union (AU) in its peacekeeping missions on the African continent.

Since June 2007, NATO has assisted the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by providing airlift support for AU peacekeepers. Following renewed AU requests, the North Atlantic Council has agreed to extend its support on several occasions and continues to do so. NATO is also working with the AU in identifying further areas where it could support the African Standby Force.

Air policing missions

Since Russia's illegal military intervention in Ukraine in 2014, NATO has been taking extra reassurance measures for its Allies. Among these is the boosting of NATO's air policing missions.

Air policing missions are collective peacetime missions that enable NATO to detect, track and identify all violations and infringements of its airspace and to take appropriate action. Allied fighter jets patrol the airspace of Allies who do not have fighter jets of their own. NATO has deployed additional aircraft to reinforce missions over Albania and Slovenia, as well as the

Baltic region where NATO F-16s have intercepted Russian aircraft repeatedly violating Allied airspace.

This air policing capability is one of three NATO standing forces on active duty that contribute to the Alliance's collective defence efforts on a permanent basis. They also include NATO's standing maritime forces, which are ready to act when called upon, as well as an integrated air defence system to protect against air attacks, which also comprises the Alliance's ballistic missile defence system.






























VI. COUNTRY PROFILE

A. Active NATO Personnel (2014)

Country	Active personnel	Reserve personnel	Total
 Albania	14,500	5,000	19,500
 Belgium	24,500	100,500	125,000
 Bulgaria	35,000	302,500	337,500
 Canada	68,000	27,000	95,000
 Croatia	18,000	180,000	198,000
 Czech Republic	21,057	2,359	23,416
 Denmark	15,000	63,000	89,000
 Estonia	3,209	60,000	63,209
 France	222,215	100,000	322,215
 Germany	180,676	145,000	325,676
 Greece	109,070	280,000	389,070
 Hungary	19,000		19,000
 Iceland	210	170	380
 Italy	180,000	41,867	220,867
 Latvia	6,000	11,000	17,000
 Lithuania	14,995	4,260	19,255
 Luxembourg	1,057	278	1,335
 Netherlands	47,660	57,200	104,860
 Norway	26,200	56,200	82,400
 Poland	120,000	515,000	635,000
 Portugal	44,900	210,930	255,830
 Romania	73,350	79,900	153,250
 Slovakia	16,000		16,000
 Slovenia	7,300	1,500	8,801
 Spain	123,000	16,200	139,200
 Turkey	612,900	429,000	1,041,900
 United Kingdom	205,851	181,720	387,571
 United States	1,369,532	850,880	2,220,412
 NATO	3,585,000	3,745,000	7,330,000

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B. Military Expenditure (2014)

Country *	Population (2014) *	GDP (nominal) (2014, US\$ millions) *	Military expenditures (2014, US\$ millions) *	Military expenditures (2014, % of GDP) *	Defence expenditures, (2014, US\$ per capita) *	Deployable military (2013) *
 Albania	3,020,209	13,262	135	1.0	42.2	8,000
 Belgium	10,449,361	534,672	5,190	1.0	468	31,000
 Bulgaria	8,924,716	55,837	837	1.6	116	26,000
 Canada	34,834,841	1,788,717	17,452	1.0	492	70,000
 Croatia	4,470,534	57,159	875	1.5	204	16,000
 Czech Republic	10,627,448	205,658	2,023	1.0	189	21,000
 Denmark	5,669,077	340,806	4,457	1.3	796	19,000
 Estonia	1,257,921	25,953	509	2.0	392	6,000
 France	66,259,012	2,846,889	62,289	2.2	964	213,000
 Germany	80,996,685	3,859,547	46,455	1.2	562	184,000
 Greece	10,775,557	238,023	5,318	2.2	479	109,000
 Hungary	9,919,128	137,104	1,164	0.9	118	18,000
 Iceland	317,351	16,893	4.5	0.03	14.2	0*
 Italy	61,680,122	2,147,952	30,909	1.5	506	186,000
 Latvia	2,165,165	31,970	299	1.3	150	5,000
 Lithuania	3,605,738	48,232	377	0.8	126	9,000
 Luxembourg	520,672	62,395	297	0.5	564	900
 Netherlands	16,877,351	866,354	10,098	1.2	600	43,000
 Norway	5,147,792	500,244	6,773	1.4	1,328	21,000
 Poland	38,346,279	546,644	10,499	1.9	275	100,000
 Portugal	10,813,834	230,012	4,201	1.9	396	35,000
 Romania	21,729,871	199,950	2,543	1.3	118	66,000
 Slovakia	5,443,583	99,971	988	1.0	180	15,000
 Slovenia	1,988,292	49,506	490	1.0	233	7,000
 Spain	47,737,941	1,406,855	12,732	0.9	270	122,000
 Turkey	81,619,392	806,108	22,618	2.2	298	494,000
 United Kingdom	64,105,700	2,945,146	60,482	2.2	952	174,000
 United States	318,892,103	17,418,925	609,914	3.5	1,891	1,370,000
 NATO	906,002,051	37,480,584	919,917	2.5	934	3,515,000