

Key NATO & Allied Exercises

NATO Allies and Partners conduct [exercises](#) to test procedures and tactics, identify best practices and areas for improvement. Through exercises, forces also practice working together effectively, swiftly and collectively.

Exercises are part of NATO's work to enhance the readiness and flexibility of its forces. They raise the ability of Allied troops to respond to threats from any direction.

NATO exercises vary in scope, duration and form. They range from live exercises involving thousands of troops to computer-assisted exercises that take place in a classroom. While the majority of NATO's exercises are military, the Alliance organises civilian and political training events as well. In addition to NATO exercises, Allies also train together in multi-national exercises.

Planning and scope

NATO Military exercises are planned by NATO's two strategic headquarters – Allied Command Operations (at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium) and Allied Command Transformation (Norfolk, Virginia, USA).

NATO has been conducting military exercises since 1951. Since 1994, members of the Partnership for Peace initiative are invited to participate in NATO peacekeeping exercises. All partner countries are able to participate in NATO exercises since 2010, on a regular basis.

Cost of NATO exercises

Allies that contribute troops and equipment pay for the resulting costs themselves. Costs attributed to NATO are covered by the NATO common budget.

Exercises in 2016

In total, around 240 NATO and Allied exercises are planned for this year. The largest one – the Polish national exercise Anakonda 2016 – took place in June in Poland. It included air and land forces. Around 31,000 troops from more than 23 nations participated.

Transparency

NATO seeks transparency and predictability, not confrontation. NATO exercises are based on fictitious scenarios and are not directed against any country. NATO military exercises are open to international observers.

As part of this commitment to transparency, NATO exercises are announced months in advance and published on the NATO website: <http://www.shape.nato.int/exercises>

Everything that the Alliance does is defensive, proportionate, and in line with its international obligations.



Key NATO and Allied Multinational exercises in 2016

INFORMATION	DATE	LOCATION
<p>DYNAMIC MANTA</p> <p>NATO exercise testing anti-submarine warfare capabilities. Dynamic Manta involved more than 5,000 sailors from 8 NATO nations, including <i>France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States</i>. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1T489zY</p>	22 February - 04 March	Ionian Sea
<p>COLD RESPONSE</p> <p>Multinational exercise showcasing Allies' ability to conduct operations in extreme weather conditions. This exercise included land, maritime and air assets, with more than 15,000 troops from 12 NATO nations and <i>Finland and Sweden</i>. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1Ona2lF</p>	17-28 March	Norway
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP ALERT 16</p> <p>The first in a series of four exercises testing the core elements of NATO's Response Force. Brilliant Jump Alert exercise tested the activation process of NATO's Spearhead force, the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The exercise involved numerous military Headquarters and units in <i>Albania, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom</i>. Find out more: http://bit.ly/27d4ypk</p>	1-10 April	Spain, Poland, UK, Albania
<p>RAMSTEIN ALLOY</p> <p>This multinational air exercise focused on enhancing interoperability among Allies and with partners, as well as exercising Baltic Air Policing aircraft. This exercise involved air assets from NATO Allies <i>Estonia, Lithuania, Belgium, Spain, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States</i> as well as partners <i>Finland and Sweden</i>.</p>	19-20 April	Estonia
<p>STEADFAST ALLIANCE</p> <p>The exercise trained the Alliance's Ballistic Missile Defence structure, including planning and decision-making processes at all levels. 7 NATO nations participated: <i>Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom, Spain, and Turkey</i>.</p>	18-29 April	Multiple locations
<p>FLAMING SWORD</p> <p>A multinational exercise testing special operations forces. This exercise involved forces from NATO nations and partners, including: <i>Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States</i>.</p>	1-20 May	Lithuania, Latvia
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP DEPLOY 16</p> <p>This exercise trained NATO's Very High Joint Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) to quickly deploy where needed. It tested the deployment of the VJTF's land elements, from their home location in Spain to the Zagan Military Training Area in Poland. Around 2,500 troops participated.</p>	17-26 May	Poland
<p>SWIFT RESPONSE</p> <p>This US-led land and air exercise focused on crisis response training and interoperability between NATO and partners. Around 9,000 troops participated, from <i>Belgium, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United States</i>.</p>	27 May - 26 June	Poland, Germany
<p>BALTOPS 16</p> <p>This was a US-led multinational exercise focused on interoperability with regional partner nations in the maritime, air, and land domains. Participating NATO nations included Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. Two partner nations, Finland and Sweden, participated. This year's exercise involved around 5,800 troops from Allied and partner nations.</p>	03 - 26 June	Baltic Sea

IRON WOLF	06-19 June	Lithuania
This was a Lithuanian-led land training exercise. NATO Allies <i>Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and the United States</i> participated, with a total of around 5,000 troops.		
SABER STRIKE	02-14 June	Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
This US-led land exercise focused on interoperability between NATO and partners. Participating NATO nations included <i>Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, United States, and the United Kingdom</i> . Around 9,000 troops participated.		
ANAKONDA	7-17 June	Poland
This was the largest Allied exercise this year. This Polish-led exercise tested the readiness and interoperability of Polish Armed Forces with participating Allies and partners. This long-planned defensive exercise was one in a series which occurs every two years. This year's exercise involved around 31,000 troops, including air and land forces. 18 Allies and 5 partners participated.		
DYNAMIC MONGOOSE	20 June - 01 July	North Sea
This is an annual NATO-led anti-submarine warfare exercise. This year's exercise involved naval and air forces from <i>Canada, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States, as well as host nation Norway</i> . Nine surface ships, four submarines and four maritime patrol aircrafts participated.		
FLAMING THUNDER 2016	1-12 Aug	Lithuania
This annual Lithuanian-led live-fire exercise will focus on artillery and mortar fire training. This year's exercise will involve troops from <i>Lithuania, the United States, Estonia, and Poland</i> .		
SHABLA 2016	15 Aug - 14 September	Bulgaria
This annual Bulgarian-led air defence exercise will focus on improving operational and tactical interoperability of participating units. This year's exercise will involve troops from the <i>United States and Bulgaria</i> .		
TOBRUK LEGACY	19-30 Sep	Slovakia
This multinational exercise will focus on integrating allied air and missile defence systems. NATO Allies Slovakia, the United States, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Lithuania will participate.		
JOINT WARRIOR 16	6-16 October	Scotland
This is a UK-led multinational exercise involving warships, aircraft, marines and troops. The Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 and Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 will participate.		
NOBLE ARROW	8-12 October	United Kingdom (West Coast of Scotland, North Atlantic, North Sea)
This will be a multinational air exercise focused on enhancing the interoperability of NATO forces in air operations and increasing the readiness of the NATO Response Force air components.		
TRIDENT JUNCTURE 16	24 October - 3 November	Italy
This is a multinational exercise aiming to train the troops of the NATO Response Force (NRF) and other Allied forces to increase their readiness to respond to a wide range of challenges. This exercise will also test the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force.		

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