

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

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

### Exercises in 2017

In total, around 100 NATO exercises are planned for this year, as well as 149 national exercises led by Allies. In 2016, NATO conducted 107 exercises and Allies conducted over 135 national exercises.

### 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. Seventeen high-level exercises were open to partners in 2016. International organisations, including the European Union, were also invited to observe NATO exercises.

As part of this commitment to transparency, NATO exercises are announced months in advance and published on the NATO website:

[www.shape.nato.int/exercises](http://www.shape.nato.int/exercises)



## Key NATO and Allied Multinational exercises in 2017

INFORMATION	DATE	LOCATION
<p><b>NOBLE JUMP II</b> NATO exercise, deploying elements of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. It will test command and control, strategic communications and information, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance. Around 4,000 troops from 9 NATO Allies are scheduled to participate: Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom</p>	1 April – 17 June	Bulgaria and Romania
<p><b>SUMMER SHIELD</b> Annual multinational training exercise. Led by Latvia, this exercise tested a broad range of combat support elements, including artillery, air defence and reconnaissance. The exercise involved more than 1,100 troops from Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.</p>	16 – 30 April	Latvia
<p><b>FLAMING THUNDER</b> Annual Lithuanian-led live-fire exercise focused on artillery and mortar fire training. This exercise will involve over 500 troops from NATO Allies and partners, including Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Ukraine.</p>	22 May – 3 June	Lithuania
<p><b>BALTOPS</b> Annual US-led maritime exercise. In 2016, over 5,800 troops from NATO Allies and partners participated.</p>	5 – 24 June	Poland and Baltic Sea
<p><b>SABER STRIKE</b> Annual US-led field training exercise. In 2016, this exercise involved around 9,000 troops from NATO Allies.</p>	6 – 23 June	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
<p><b>IRON WOLF</b> Annual Lithuanian-led land exercise, testing multinational battlegroups. In 2016, this exercise involved around 5,000 troops from NATO Allies.</p>	11 – 25 June	Lithuania
<p><b>DYNAMIC MONGOOSE</b> Annual NATO anti-submarine warfare exercise</p>	26 June – 8 July	Iceland
<p><b>TOBRUQ LEGACY</b> Annual US-led exercise, training ground air defence units to carry out Article Five operations. This exercise will involve roughly 450 troops from the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States.</p>	8 – 23 July	Czech Republic, Lithuania, Romania
<p><b>DYNAMIC MONARCH</b> NATO submarine rescue exercise, testing Allies' coordination, emergency response procedures and equipment.</p>	8 – 23 September	Turkey, Mediterranean Sea
<p><b>TRIDENT JOUST</b> Command Post Exercise in a non-Article 5 Crisis Response Operation context, exercising command and control from a forward deployed location.</p>	11 – 20 September	Poland
<p><b>BRILLIANT ARROW</b> NATO exercise testing the NATO Response Force.</p>	11 – 23 September	TBD
<p><b>BRILLIANT LEDGER</b> NATO land exercise testing the readiness of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps in Italy; the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force; and the land forces of the NATO Response Force 2018.</p>	25 September – 18 October	Italy
<p><b>BRILLIANT SWORD</b> NATO exercise, testing the interoperability of Special Operation Forces elements of the NATO Response Force 2018.</p>	1 – 15 October	TBD

**BRILLIANT MARINER**

NATO exercise testing the interoperability of maritime forces of the NATO Response Force 2018.

10 – 16 October France

**TRIDENT JAVELIN**

Command Post Exercise using an Article Five scenario to train and certify NATO's command and control abilities in a major conflict.

8-17 November Norway

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