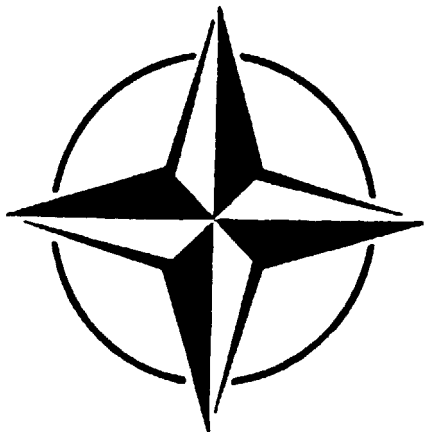


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A POCKET GUIDE TO

NATO



American Forces Information Service

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YOU AND NATO

In almost every briefing you receive before going overseas to a European assignment you hear the phrase, "You will be in Europe to support the United States' commitment to NATO."

But what exactly is NATO? What is our commitment? And how will you and your unit fit into the NATO plan?

NATO--the North Atlantic Treaty Organization--is the result of a treaty signed in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1949, which has as its goal the preservation of international peace by maintaining a high state of military preparedness in Europe, North America, and in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Baltic Seas.

The heart of the NATO treaty is Article 5 which reads in part:

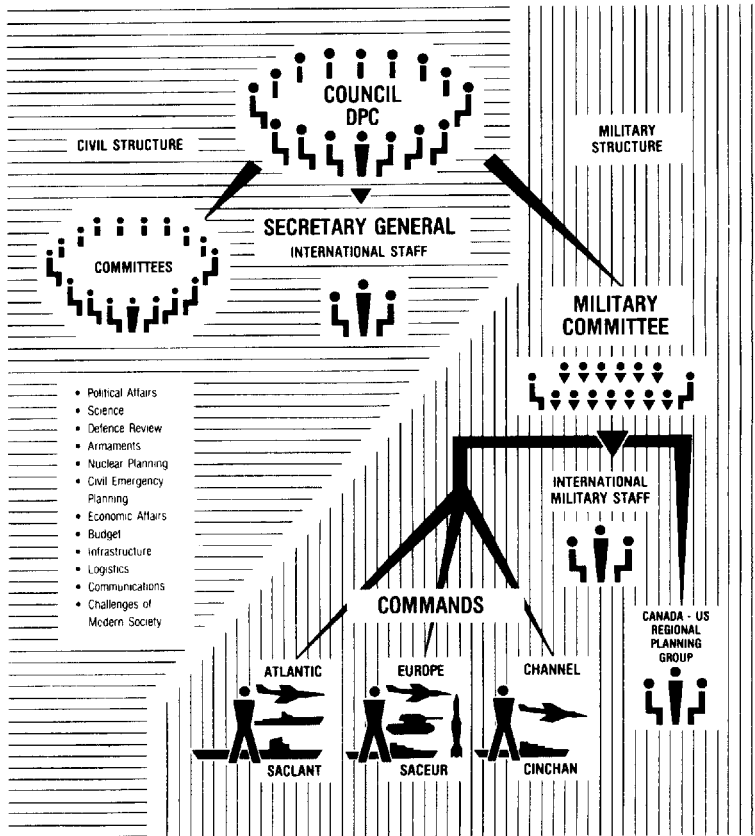
"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all, and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them ...will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by... such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

The member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The foreign ministers of these countries meet semi-annually as the North Atlantic Council to establish policies. The defense ministers of these same countries, with the exception of France, also meet semi-annually to establish defense-related policy.

In addition to serving as the framework for a defensive alliance designed to prevent aggression or to repel it should it occur, NATO also provides for continuous cooperation and consultation in political, economic, and other non-military fields.

At the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, ambassadors representing the member nations constitute the North Atlantic Council. They meet regularly between ministerial meetings to discuss policies and plans. Since within NATO all member nations are equal in status and

CIVIL AND MILITARY STRUCTURE



retain their full sovereignty and independence, decisions depend upon common consent.

The military mission of NATO in peacetime is to:

- maintain forces to deter aggression against member nations,
- draw up joint defense plans for the NATO area,
- set up and operate the necessary headquarters, staffs, and commonly funded operational organizations, and
- arrange for joint training exercises among the forces of the member nations.

The United States' commitment to NATO includes not only the armed forces that are stationed in the NATO member nations in Europe, but also forces based in the United States. For NATO exercises, personnel and materiel are deployed across the Atlantic Ocean, support aircraft are deployed to European bases, and ships are exercised with other navies.

While you are stationed in one of the member nations of NATO, you may take part in a NATO exercise. They are conducted periodically to increase the effectiveness and combat capability of the forces which would be assigned to one of the NATO commands during wartime.

These exercises may be in a limited area or NATO-wide and are designed to test defense plans as well as the cooperation between the armed forces of the member countries. (Note: France remains a member of the North Atlantic Alliance but withdrew from NATO's integrated military forces in 1966.)

NATO's forces are made up of three interlocking elements known as the NATO Triad. These forces are:

- conventional forces strong enough to resist and repel a conventional attack on a limited scale and to sustain a conventional defense in the forward areas against large-scale conventional aggression,

- theater nuclear forces to enhance the deterrent and defensive effort of NATO's conventional forces. The aim is to convince any aggressor that any form of attack on NATO will result in serious damage to the attacking forces and to make certain the aggressor knows the danger implicit in continuing the conflict, and

- the United States' and United Kingdom's strategic nuclear forces which provide the ultimate deterrent.

By working together, NATO forces can provide the whole range of military response which will enable the international organization to meet aggression at any level with an appropriate response.



The NATO Commands

The strategic area established by the North Atlantic Treaty is divided among three major commands, each of which has subordinate commands.

These major commands are:

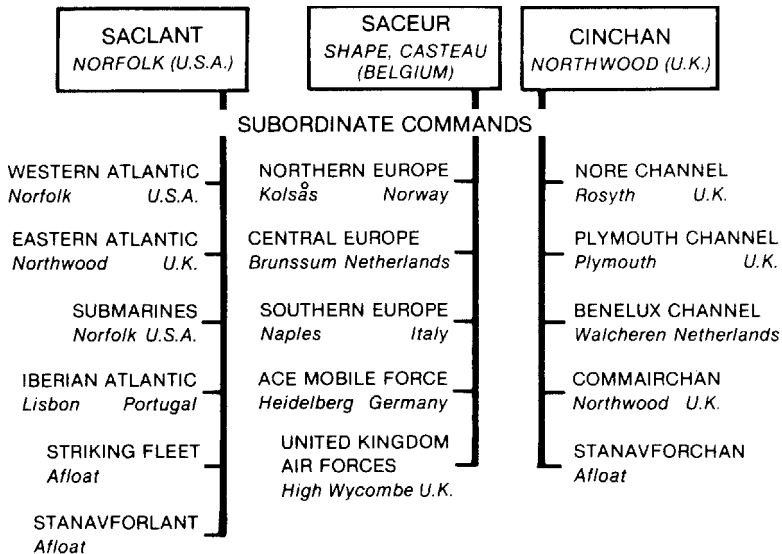
Allied Command Europe (ACE). From Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium near Mons, the Supreme Allied Command Europe (SACEUR) prepares defense plans and ensures the combat efficiency of forces assigned to the command by frequent exercises. In wartime, SACEUR would control all land, sea, and air operations in an area which extends from the North Cape of Norway to the Mediterranean and from the Western European coastline to the eastern border of Turkey, excluding the United Kingdom (which does not fall under any one major NATO command) and Portugal. Subordinate commands are:

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

NORTH
ATLANTIC
TREATY

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. UNITED STATES | 9. LUXEMBOURG |
| 2. CANADA | 10. PORTUGAL |
| 3. ICELAND | 11. FRANCE |
| 4. NORWAY | 12. ITALY |
| 5. UNITED KINGDOM | 13. GREECE |
| 6. NETHERLANDS | 14. TURKEY |
| 7. DENMARK | 15. FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY |
| 8. BELGIUM | |

MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS



- Allied Forces Northern Europe at Kolsaas, Norway, with three subordinate headquarters: Allied Forces North Norway, Allied Forces South Norway, and Allied Forces Baltic Approaches,
- Allied Forces Central Europe at Brunssum, Netherlands, with three subordinate headquarters: Northern Army Group, Central Army Group, and Allied Air Forces Central Europe,
- Allied Forces Southern Europe at Naples, Italy, with five subordinate headquarters: Allied Land Forces Southern Europe, Allied Land Forces South-Eastern Europe, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, and Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe,
- United Kingdom Air Defense Region at High Wycombe, United Kingdom,
- Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force at Heidelberg, Germany.

Allied Command Atlantic (ACLANT). From headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia, the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) prepares defense plans for the 12 million square miles of the Atlantic Ocean covered by the command. SACLANT's wartime task will be to provide for the security of the area by guarding sea lanes to deny their use to an enemy and to safeguard them for the reinforcement and resupply of NATO Europe with personnel and materiel. Subordinate commands are:

- Western Atlantic Command with six subordinate headquarters: Submarine Force Western Atlantic Area,

Ocean Sub-Area, Canadian Atlantic Sub-Area, and the Bermuda, Azores, and Greenland Island commands,

- Eastern Atlantic Command with seven subordinate headquarters: Maritime Air Eastern Atlantic Area, Northern Sub-Area, Maritime Air Northern Sub-Area, Central Sub-Area, Maritime Air Central Sub-Area, Submarine Force Eastern Atlantic, and the Island Commanders at Iceland and the Faeroes,

- Striking Fleet Atlantic Command composed of a Carrier Striking Force and the Carrier Striking Groups One and Two,

- Submarines Allied Command Atlantic,

- Iberian Atlantic Command which includes the Island Command of Madeira, and

- Standing Naval Forces Atlantic, the world's first permanent international naval squadron formed in peacetime.

Allied Command Channel (ACCHAN). From headquarters at Northwood, United Kingdom, the Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel Command (CINCHAN) controls these subordinate headquarters: Nore Channel Command, Plymouth Channel Command, Benelux Channel Command, Allied Maritime Air Force Channel Command, and the Standing Naval Force Channel. The last of these is a permanent force made up of mine countermeasure vessels of the different NATO countries.



YOUR ROLE

Your role in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its mission is to be a professional in your assigned military field.

In peacetime, you will receive your orders only from United States authorities.

The only exceptions to this would be if you are assigned to an integrated staff at one of the NATO military headquarters, to certain air defense units that are on constant NATO alert, or to one of the Standing Naval Forces which operate under the Allied Command Atlantic or the Allied Command Channel.

Your military goal is the same as NATO's—to prevent war by maintaining a high standard of military preparedness.



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON

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