



European Leadership Network

*Building European capacity to meet
the challenges of the 21st century*

Major decisions on force deployments taken by NATO and its Member States in response to or in the context of the 2014 crisis¹

February 2016

Emergency increase of military footprint along the Eastern flank of the Alliance following Crimea takeover by Russia in March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- number of fighters deployed by NATO members as part of the Baltic Air Policy mission quadrupled (from 4 to 16 aircraft)²- regular AWACS missions flown over the territories of Poland and Romania- additional U.S. F-16s and Canadian CF-18 aircraft stationed in Poland and Romania³- increased US surveillance flights in the vicinity of Russia's Western borders- US company-size units from the 173rd Airborne Brigade inserted into Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
Continued rotational presence of land forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- U.S. comprehensive engagement in the framework of "Operation Atlantic Resolve", supported by European Reassurance Initiative funds, including roughly 90-days-long long tours in Central Europe for rotating land units⁴- augmentation of U.S. presence in Romania and Bulgaria⁵- Canadian "Operation Reassurance", continuous rotational presence of 120-strong Land Task Force deployed to Central Europe⁶- other NATO states deployed elements of their forces in the region for shorter time periods and for specific exercise activities⁷
Increased NATO maritime activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- re-activation of Standing NATO Mine Counter-Measures Group One SNMCMG1⁸ and deployment into the Baltic Sea in April 2014⁹- deployment of NATO Maritime Groups and ships of individual NATO states into the Black Sea¹⁰
Development of NATO command structure in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- establishment of NATO Force Integration Units (command and logistics coordination centres with approximately 40

flank region	<p>military personnel) in the three Baltic States, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia¹¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - augmentation of staff and increasing the readiness level of the existing Headquarters of the Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin (Poland) - activation of the high-readiness Headquarters for Multinational Division Southeast in Romania¹²
U.S. decisions on pre-positioning of equipment and supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The U.S. Army expanded its pre-positioned "European Activity Set"¹³ in Europe (stored in Germany, used for exercises or crisis contingencies) from a battalion to an armoured brigade size - U.S. to prepare a second armoured brigade-size set of equipment reserved for use in contingencies, not for day-to-day training¹⁴ - as announced by U.S. defence Secretary Ash Carter in June 2015, elements of the European Activity Set will be stored in Central and Eastern European locations¹⁵
Increase of the military potential of Central and Eastern European NATO allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase of the defence budgets (including a pledge to reach 2,0% GDP level by Lithuania and Latvia, increase from 1,95% to 2,0% GDP by Poland from 2016) - acquisition of new weapon systems (U.S. air-launched cruise missiles and air/missile defence system by Poland; ex-Portuguese F-16s by Romania, German PzH 2000 howitzer by Lithuania, ex-Dutch CV90 infantry fighting vehicles by Estonia; ex-UK armoured vehicles by Latvia, portable air-defence systems by Latvia and Lithuania, Javelin and Carl Gustav anti-tank weapons by Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) - increased use of reservists in training, augmentation of National Guard-type forces in the Baltic States and Poland

¹ The information contained in this table has been compiled by the European Leadership Network and forms part of February 2016 publication "Towards a New Equilibrium: Minimising the risks of NATO and Russia's new military postures". For more information visit www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org or follow us on twitter @theELN

² http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2015_02/20150205_1502-Factsheet-RAP-en.pdf

³ <http://www.stripes.com/hagel-us-forces-to-stay-in-poland-until-end-of-2014-1.278540>; <http://globalaviationreport.com/2014/08/23/canadian-air-task-force-completes-mission-in-romania/>

⁴ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0514_Atlantic-Resolve

⁵ <http://www.agerpres.ro/english/2014/04/01/president-basescu-approves-deployment-of-us-troops-at-kogalniceanu-airport-15-02-22>

⁶ <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=916179>

⁷ See Table 2 for more details.

⁸ According to NATO definition, "The Standing NATO Maritime Groups are a multinational, integrated maritime force made up of vessels from various allied countries [...] permanently available to NATO to perform different tasks ranging from participating in exercises to actually intervening in operational missions", see: <http://www.mc.nato.int/org/smg/Pages/default.aspx>

⁹ [http://www.mc.nato.int/PressReleases/Pages/Standing-NATO-Mine-Counter-Measures-Group-ONE-\(SNMCMG1\)-Prepares-for-Baltic-Deployment.aspx](http://www.mc.nato.int/PressReleases/Pages/Standing-NATO-Mine-Counter-Measures-Group-ONE-(SNMCMG1)-Prepares-for-Baltic-Deployment.aspx)

¹⁰ <http://www.stripes.com/news/nato-maritime-group-enters-black-sea-as-ukraine-crisis-continues-1.332693>

¹¹ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_123655.htm?selectedLocale=en

¹² http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_125356.htm

¹³ <http://www.army.mil/article/155832>. Pre-positioned set essentially encompasses the vehicles and equipment for a U.S. unit of particular size; its soldiers can be deployed to Europe from the United States. Armoured brigade-size set is approximately 1,200 vehicles, including 220-250 Abrams tanks, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and self-propelled artillery.

¹⁴ <http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/careers/army/2015/07/15/army-plans-double-equipment-boost-soldiers-europe/30187329/>

¹⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/23/us-usa-europe-defense-idUSKBN0P315620150623>