

Major NATO and NATO-related exercises conducted since 2014 in Central Europe and adjacent areas¹

February 2016

NAME	DATE	MAIN LOCATION(S)	MAIN FEATURES
Spring Storm 14/ Steadfast Javelin I	May 2014	Estonia	6,000 troops from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States in a NATO-led scenario of repelling aggression ²
Saber Strike 2014	June 2014	Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia	US Army-led; 4,500 troops, including 1100 Danish personnel, 380 Americans and company-size units from Poland, UK, Norway, and Canada ³
Breeze 2014	July 2014	Bulgaria-led, Black Sea	2014 exercises explicitly aimed at enhancing NATO solidarity and the readiness of NATO naval forces ⁴
Saber Junction 2014	August-September 2014	Germany, Latvia	5,800 participating, mainly in Germany but one episode involved airdrop and seizure of airport in Latvia ⁵
Thracian Eagle	August 2014	Bulgaria	New US-Bulgarian exercise involving 12 F-15s, repeated in April 2015 ⁶
Steadfast Javelin II	September 2014	Poland, Germany and the three Baltic States,	2,000 troops training parachute drops and air assault operations ⁷
Anakonda	September-October 2014	Poland	Poland-led; 12,500 troops, including 750 from other NATO and partner countries
Noble Justification / Noble Ledger	September/October 2014	Various locations	13,000 NATO troops preparing the 2015 rotation of the NATO Response Force; Special Forces

			Component conducted exercises in Poland and Lithuania ⁸
Danube Express 2014	October 2014	Romania	deployment of UK troops for exercises, in total 1,000 troops and more than 400 pieces of equipment ⁹
Joint Warrior (autumn)	October 2014	UK, the Atlantic	UK-led; 22 warships and submarines, 52 aircraft, and around 3,500 personnel ¹⁰
Black Eagle	November 2014	Poland	UK's 1,300 strong battlegroup exercised in Poland, with 20 Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior armoured vehicles ¹¹
Iron Sword 14	November 2014	Lithuania	Inaugurated in 2014, to become a regular exercise; participation of 2,500 troops from 9 NATO countries, 300 combat vehicles ¹²
Joint Viking 2015	March 2015	Norway	Norway-led; 5,000 troops training in the northern Finnmark region bordering Russia ¹³
Joint Warrior (spring)	April 2015	UK, the Atlantic	UK-led; 55 ships, 70 aircraft and around 13,000 troops from 14 countries ¹⁴
Saber Junction 2015	April 2015	Germany, Romania	US Army-led; 4,700 troops, included for the first time a training episode in Romania. ¹⁵
Wind Spring 15	April 2015	Eastern Romania	Over 2,200 troops from Romania, the United States, UK and Moldova. ¹⁶
Spring Storm 15 / Siil (Hedgehog)	May 2015	Estonia	13,000 troops, including 7000 reservists, training article 5-type scenario ¹⁷
Arctic Challenge 2015	May-June 2015	Norway, Sweden, Finland	More than 100 aircraft from 9 NATO and partner countries ¹⁸
Allied Shield	June 2015	Various locations	15,000 personnel from 19 Members states and three partner states. Allied Shield was an umbrella name for four exercises, with different scenarios: BALTOPS 15 (naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, with participation of 49 ships, 61 aircraft, one submarine, and over 5600 personnel) ¹⁹ , Saber Strike 15 , a regular US-Army led exercise,

			held in 2015 in Poland and the Baltic States, Noble Jump , the first training deployment of elements NATO's new "spearhead" Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) to Poland, Trident Joust , command and control exercise with elements of the Naples-based Allied Joint Force Command headquarters forward-deployed to Romania ²⁰
Breeze 2015	July 2015	Black Sea	30 warships from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and USA ²¹
Swift Response 2015	August-September 2015	Germany, Bulgaria	US-led; appr. 5,000 paratroopers from 11 NATO countries – "largest combined airborne training on the continent since the end of the Cold War" ²²
Dragon 15	October 2015	Poland	7,000 troops including 900 from other NATO states, 700 pieces of equipment ²³
Joint Warrior 15 (autumn)	October-November 2015	UK, the Atlantic	Appr. 30 ships, included also At Sea Demonstration of air and missile defence capabilities ²⁴
Iron Sword 15	November 2015	Lithuania	2000 troops from 10 NATO countries and Georgia ²⁵
U.S. time-limited deployments of specific types of weapon systems	2014-2015	Various locations, incl. Central Europe	Training deployments of systems which could be used in contingencies involving Russia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B-52 and B-2 strategic bombers²⁶ - Patriot air and missile defence batteries²⁷ - A-10 Warthog ground attack aircraft²⁸ - F-22 Raptor fighters²⁹

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/cps/en/natolive/news_109929.htm

³ <http://www.army.mil/article/128187/>

⁴ <http://www.aco.nato.int/-nato-warships-participate-in-exercise-breeze-2014-.aspx>

⁵ http://www.army.mil/article/132332/U_S__Army_Europe_conducts_exercise_Saber_Junction/.

See the presentation on the evolution of Saber Junction exercise over the years:

<http://www.eur.army.mil/SaberJunction/Evolution.htm>

⁶ <http://www.novinite.com/articles/162825/US+Air+Force+F-15+Deploy+to+Bulgaria+for+Bilateral+Training+Event>

⁷ http://www.nato.int/cps/eu/natohq/news_112999.htm

⁸ <http://www.aco.nato.int/special-forces-train-for-certification-in-exercise-noble-justification-14-.aspx>

⁹ <http://www.jfcnaples.nato.int/page11122031/2014/exercise-danube-express-begins-in-romania.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2014/october/08/141008-exercise-joint-warrior-gets-underway>

¹¹ <http://www.army.mod.uk/news/26733.aspx#>

¹² <https://nato.mfa.lt/nato/en/news/one-of-the-largest-international-military-exercises-in-lithuania-iron-sword-2014-has-ended>

¹³ <http://www.newsinenglish.no/2015/02/06/5000-soldiers-to-train-near-russia/>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-warrior-military-exercise-to-take-place>

¹⁵

http://www.army.mil/article/145053/Saber_Junction_15_kicks_off_with_rapid_deployment_and_jump_into_Romania/

¹⁶ <http://www.agerpres.ro/english/2015/04/20/mircea-dusa-and-general-bradshaw-to-participate-in-wind-spring-15-multinational-exercise-18-27-15>

¹⁷ Biggest ever national exercises, UK and US biggest outside participants

<http://www.icds.ee/blog/article/hedgehog-estonias-biggest-military-exercise-of-all-time-does-every-quill-really-count/> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/raf-typhoons-intercept-russian-aircraft-near-estonia>

¹⁸ <http://thesentinel.ca/norway-led-arctic-challenge-exercise-2015-starts/>

¹⁹ <http://www.aco.nato.int/nato-allies-begin-naval-exercise-baltops-in-the-baltic-sea.aspx>

²⁰ <http://www.jfcnaples.nato.int/page11122031/2015/jfc-naples-commander-announces-exercise--increased-nato-capability-in-romania-.aspx>

²¹ <http://www.worldbulletin.net/balkans/161780/bulgaria-hosts-breeze-2015-naval-exercise>

²²

http://www.army.mil/article/153395/Swift_Response_to_exercise_NATO_airborne_forces_in_Europe/

²³ <http://mon.gov.pl/aktualnosci/artykul/2015-10-02-dragon-15-najwieksze-tegoroczne-cwiczenie-wp/>

²⁴ <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2015/november/03/151103-successful-completion-of-at-sea-demo>

²⁵ <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/defence/five-military-exercises-planned-in-lithuania-in-november.d?id=69530300>

²⁶ <http://www.barksdale.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123444220>

²⁷ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3005705/US-air-defense-troops-train-fast-deployment-Poland.html>

²⁸ <http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/2015/08/11/12-more--10s-deploy-eastern-europe/31460615/>

²⁹ <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/air-space/strike/2015/08/24/f-22-deploying-europe/32289415/>