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

**February 2016**

| Emergency increase of military footprint along the Eastern flank of the Alliance following Crimea takeover by Russia in March 2014 | - number of fighters deployed by NATO members as part of the Baltic Air Policy mission quadrupled (from 4 to 16 aircraft)
- 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 Romania
- 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 | - U.S. comprehensive engagement in the framework of “Operation Atlantic Resolve”, supported by European Reassurance Initiative funds, including roughly 90-days-long tours in Central Europe for rotating land units
- augmentation of U.S. presence in Romania and Bulgaria
- Canadian “Operation Reassurance”, continuous rotational presence of 120-strong Land Task Force deployed to Central Europe
- other NATO states deployed elements of their forces in the region for shorter time periods and for specific exercise activities |
| Increased NATO maritime activities | - re-activation of Standing NATO Mine Counter-Measures Group One SNMCMG1 and deployment into the Baltic Sea in April 2014
- deployment of NATO Maritime Groups and ships of individual NATO states into the Black Sea |
| Development of NATO command structure in the | - establishment of NATO Force Integration Units (command and logistics coordination centres with approximately 40 |
flank region military personnel) in the three Baltic States, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia¹¹
- 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 | - 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 | - 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](http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org) or follow us on twitter @theELN
⁵ [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0514_Atlantic-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0514_Atlantic-Resolve)
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](http://www.mc.nato.int/org/smg/Pages/default.aspx)
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.