



# NATO's Operations 1949 - Present



**NATO conducted no operations during the Cold War. The Alliance's focus during its first forty years of existence was ensuring the effective defence of NATO's territory against the threat posed by the Warsaw Pact, and our main activities therefore involved increasing readiness, developing plans, making preparations, and conducting exercises for possible Article 5 situations. Thus the first NATO operations did not occur until after the end of the Cold War.**

## **1. Operation ANCHOR GUARD, 10 August 1990 - 9 March 1991**

After Iraqi invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, NATO Airborne Early Warning aircraft deployed to Konya, Turkey, to monitor the crisis and provide coverage of south-eastern Turkey in case of an Iraqi attack during the first Gulf Crisis/War.

## **2. Operation ACE GUARD, 3 January 1991 - 8 March 1991**

In response to a Turkish request for assistance to meet the threat posed by Iraq during the first Gulf Crisis/War, NATO deployed the ACE Mobile Force (Air) and air defence packages to Turkey.

## **3. Operations ALLIED GOODWILL I & II, 4 - 9 February & 27 February - 24 March 1992**

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union in December 1991 and the collapse of its centrally-controlled economic system, NATO assisted an international relief effort by flying teams of humanitarian assistance experts and medical advisors to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States nations using NAEW trainer cargo aircraft.

## **4. Operation AGILE GENIE, 1- 19 May 1992**

During a period of growing Western tension with Libya after the UN Security Council imposed sanctions designed to induce Libya to surrender suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over the town of Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988, NATO provided increased AWACS coverage of the Central Mediterranean to monitor air approach routes from the North African littoral. NATO AWACS aircraft flew a total of 36 missions with a total of 2336 flying hours.

## **5. Operation MARITIME MONITOR, 16 July - 22 November 1992**

NATO warships patrolled the Adriatic Sea to monitor the United Nations Security Council's embargo on weapons to the warring parties during the fighting in Former Yugoslavia. This operation was followed by the enforcement operation known as Op. MARITIME GUARD.

**6. Operation SKY MONITOR, 15 October 1992 - 12 April 1993**

NATO aircraft monitored the No-Fly Zone declared by the United Nations Security Council against flights by military aircraft of the warring factions over Bosnia during the fighting in Former Yugoslavia. This operation was followed by the enforcement operation known as DENY FLIGHT.

**7. Operation MARITIME GUARD, 22 November 1992 - 15 June 1993**

As a follow-on to the monitoring mission of Operation MARITIME MONITOR, NATO warships patrolled the Adriatic Sea to enforce the weapons embargo against the warring factions during the conflict in Former Yugoslavia.

**8. Operation DENY FLIGHT, 12 April 1993 - 21 December 1995**

As a follow-on to the monitoring operation of Op. SKY MONITOR, NATO aircraft enforced the UN Security Council's No-Fly Zone over Bosnia. Subsequent additions to Operation DENY FLIGHT included Close Air Support to UN peacekeepers and air strikes in support of UN resolutions. On 28 February 1994 NATO engaged in the first combat operations in its history when DENY FLIGHT aircraft shot down four Bosnian Serb fighter-bombers conducting a bombing mission in violation of the No-Fly Zone.

**9. Operation SHARP GUARD, 15 June 1993 - 2 October 1996**

Following a decision taken at a joint session of the North Atlantic Council and the Western European Union (WEU) Council, the separate NATO and WEU operations in the Adriatic Sea to enforce the United Nations' maritime embargo of weapons imports by the warring factions in Former Yugoslavia were combined into a single operation.

**10. Operations DEADEYE and DELIBERATE FORCE, 30 - 31 August 1995 & 5 - 14 September 1995**

After a mortar attack caused heavy loss of life at a marketplace in Sarajevo, UN peacekeepers requested NATO airstrikes, which began on 30 August against Bosnian Serb air defences (Operation DEADEYE). When a bombing pause failed to result in Bosnian Serb compliance with the UN's demands to withdraw, Operation DELIBERATE FORCE targeted Bosnian Serb command & control installations and ammunition facilities. These airstrikes were a key factor in bringing the Serbs to the negotiating table and ending the war in Bosnia.

**11. Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR, 20 December 1995 - 20 December 1996**

NATO's first peacekeeping operation – the Implementation Force (IFOR) – which had the mission of implementing the military aspects of the peace agreement for Bosnia (separation of warring factions and creating safe and secure conditions for the other tasks associated with the peace agreement). Approximately 60,000 troops from the 16 NATO members and 17 non-NATO countries including Russia participated in IFOR initially.

**12. Operation JOINT GUARD, 20 December 1996 - 20 June 1998**

Following the end of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and the completion of the initial military tasks for implementing the peace agreement, NATO continued leading the international peacekeeping operation in Bosnia with a new focus and a smaller force now bearing the name Stabilisation Force (SFOR) instead of Implementation Force (IFOR).

**13. Operation JOINT FORGE, 20 June 1998 - 2 December 2004**

After the situation in Bosnia continued to improve, requiring fewer peacekeepers, and the Bosnian state acquired increased sovereignty including control of its airspace, NATO again reduced the size of the SFOR (Stabilisation Force) peacekeeping operation and made changes to the mission, which finally ended on 2 December 2004 when a European Union-led force (EUFOR; the operation was named ALTHEA) took over.

**14. Operation EAGLE EYE, 30 October 1998 - 24 March 1999**

At the request of the United Nations Security Council, NATO aircraft conducted aerial monitoring of the situation in Kosovo to verify Serb compliance with UN resolutions regarding a ceasefire and with NATO-Serb agreements regarding force reductions in Kosovo. The Serbs did not comply with these resolutions and agreements, and Operation EAGLE EYE ended when the Kosovo Conflict began.

**15. Operation JOINT GUARANTOR, 4 December 1998 - 20 March 1999**

NATO prepared plans and made preparations for the evacuation of OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) monitors in Kosovo, which did not prove necessary. The OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission was expelled from Kosovo by the Serbs on 20 Mar 1999, four days before the start of the Kosovo Conflict.

**16. Operation ALLIED FORCE, 24 March - 20 June 1999**

NATO's air campaign against the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY: Serbia & Montenegro) and its forces deployed in Kosovo. During this operation NATO used a wide range of aircraft and naval weapons against the FRY including submarine-launched cruise missiles, fighters, fighter bombers, air defence aircraft and AWACS. NATO also assembled a ground force in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) led by the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters. This force served as a confidence-building measure for the FYROM authorities and eventually became the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

**17. Operation ALLIED HARBOUR, 16 April - 30 August 1999**

To help the Albanian authorities deal with the massive influx of refugees from Kosovo during the Kosovo Conflict, NATO deployed the ACE Mobile Force (Land) [AMF (L)] to establish the Albania Force (AFOR) that provided humanitarian assistance in Albania.

**18. Operation JOINT GUARDIAN, 12 June 1999 - Present**

The NATO-led KFOR (Kosovo Force) deployed into Kosovo to implement the peace settlement, which included the Military Technical Agreement signed by Serbia and the undertaking by the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) to demilitarise and transform itself. KFOR's mission was to establish a military presence, deter renewed hostilities, verify and if necessary enforce the terms of the MTA and UCK undertaking, establish a secure environment for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees and international organisations, provide immediate basic life support to IDPs in Kosovo, provide initial basic civil administration and other non-military functions pending the arrival of international organisations and control the borders of the FRY in Kosovo with Albania and FYROM. On 28 April 2005 the KFOR operation became part of OPLAN 10501 JOINT ENTERPRISE for the Entire Balkan Operation Area.

**19. Operation ESSENTIAL HARVEST, 27 August - 27 September 2001**

In 2001 FYROM was on the brink of civil war, but with international mediation a peace settlement was reached between the government and the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA). On 7 June 2001 the FYROM President requested NATO support to ensure the withdrawal and disarmament of the NLA, and the NAC agreed. On 27 August 2001 NLA fighters began handing over weapons to the NATO-led Task Force Harvest in FYROM. This force also secured and assisted the transportation of weapons and ammunition to the main destruction site in Greece.

**20. Operation AMBER FOX, 27 September 2001 - 16 December 2002**

Following the end of Operation ESSENTIAL HARVEST on 27 September 2001, NATO began a new mission of providing active and pre-arranged support measures to EU and OSCE monitors in FYROM who were observing the parties' compliance with the Ohrid Peace Agreement, in particular the re-entry of FYROM police into contested areas. This mission was initially conducted by the troops of Task Force Harvest until they were replaced by Task Force Fox on 4 October 2001. At the request of the FYROM government, Operation AMBER FOX was extended four times until 15 December 2002. The name of this operation proved controversial after journalists searched for it on the internet and discovered that it was also the name of a homosexual night club in Paris.

**21. Operation EAGLE ASSIST, 9 October 2001 - 15 May 2002**

Following the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States, NATO provided five NAEW&CF (NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force) aircraft to the US to support the US Operation NOBLE EAGLE to defend its airspace and prevent further attacks like those of 11 September. The aircraft deployed to Tinker Air Force Base on 9 October 2001 and conducted the first NATO flight to protect US airspace on 15 October. On 16 January 2002 the NAC authorised the deployment of two additional NATO E-3A aircraft for EAGLE ASSIST. During the more than seven months of Operation EAGLE ASSIST, NATO E-3A aircraft flew 447 sorties with a total of 4,719 flying hours.

**22. Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, 26 October 2001 - Present**

On the day after the terrorist attack on the US on 11 September 2001 the NAC decided that if the attack had been perpetrated from abroad, it would be considered an act covered by Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. The NAC confirmed this declaration on 2 October 2001, and the following day the US requested that NATO provide a presence in the Eastern Mediterranean to demonstrate resolve during the crisis. The NAC agreed on 4 October, and after the OPLAN was promulgated on 26 October, naval patrols in the Eastern Mediterranean began. Subsequent revisions to the plan including providing escorts to Allied shipping through the Straits of Gibraltar, conducting Mine Counter Measures (MCM) route surveys in defined areas and ports, boarding suspect vessels, and extending the scope of the operation from the Eastern Mediterranean to the entire Mediterranean.

**23. Operation ALLIED HARMONY, 16 December 2002 - 31 March 2003**

This operation replaced Operation AMBER FOX and continued NATO support to international monitors in FYROM and assistance to the efforts of the FYROM government to improve security throughout the country. This operation was followed by the EU-led Operation CONCORDIA on 31 March 2003.

**24. Operation DISPLAY DETERRENCE, 20 February 2003 - 16 April 2003**

During the second Gulf Conflict NATO deployed NAEW aircraft and air defence batteries to enhance the defence of Turkey. The NAEW portion of the operation was known as Operation CRESCENT GUARD and consisted of more than 100 missions and 950 flying hours.

**25. (No Operation Name) NATO Command of ISAF, 11 August 2003 - Present**

On 20 December 2001 the UN Security Council authorised the establishment of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, following the defeat of the Taliban in November 2001. ISAF was to assist the Afghan Interim Authority maintain security in Kabul and surrounding areas and to enable the Interim Authority and the UN to operate in a safe environment. Four NATO countries – the United Kingdom, Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands – provided most of the personnel for the first three rotations of ISAF, but this was not a NATO-led operation, and the burden of force generation proved very difficult for the countries involved. In December 2002 Germany recommended that NATO assume command of ISAF IV, and the NAC agreed to this in April 2003. NATO then assumed command of ISAF on 11 August 2003. Subsequent additions to the ISAF OPLAN added Strategic Reserve Forces and then expanded ISAF's mission beyond the Kabul area. Stage 1 Expansion began on 31 Dec 2003 when the German PRT in Kunduz transferred to ISAF Control. On 1 July 2004 nine provinces in Area North were added to ISAF's area of operations. Stage 1 expansion was completed on 1 Oct 2004. Stage 2 expansion into the Central Region and Area West began in April 2005. Under Stage 3 ISAF assumed command of southern Afghanistan from the US-led coalition on 31 July 2006. The final phase of ISAF expansion was Phase 4 on 5 October 2006, which placed eastern Afghanistan under ISAF control, thus making ISAF responsible for all of Afghanistan.

## **26. Operation DISTINGUISHED GAMES, 18 June - 29 September 2004**

In response to a request by the Greek government, NATO provided assistance to the Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Athens on 13-29 August and 17-28 September 2004. NATO assistance consisted of intelligence support, provision of CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiation and Nuclear) defence assets, and NAEWF&C aircraft. On 3 August 2004 the Joint Forces Command Naples Joint Operations Centre and its Forward Command Element in Athens began 24-hour operations in support of the Olympic Games. Deployed assets included a CBRN Task Force, Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) assets and NAEWF&C aircraft. This was the first operation in which non-Article 4 or 5 NATO assistance was provided within the borders of a member nation.

## **27. (No Operation Name) NATO Training Mission in Iraq, 7 August 2004 - Present**

On 20 March 2003 a US-led coalition invaded Iraq and successfully completed its major combat operations on 1 May 2003. On 8 June 2004 the UN Security Council requested that member states and regional organisations such as NATO contribute assistance to meet the needs of the Iraqi people for security and stability plus humanitarian and reconstruction assistance. On 20 June 2004 the Iraqi Prime Minister asked the NATO Secretary General for NATO help in training, equipping and providing other technical assistance to the Iraqi security forces. NATO Heads of State and Government responded favourably to this request at the Istanbul Summit on 28 June 2004, and on 30 July 2004 the NAC agreed to establish a NATO Training Implementation Mission in Iraq (NTIM-I). A small advance party left for Iraq on 7 August 2004, followed by the main party of 45 personnel in mid-August. Further political discussion in the NAC led to the decision to create a larger training mission to be known as the NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I). It replaced the initial NTIM-I on 9 October 2004.

## **28. (No Operation Name) NATO Support to the African Union Mission in Sudan, 23 June 2005 - 31 December 2007**

On 28 May 2004 the African Union (AU) deployed a small military monitoring force called the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the crisis-stricken area of Darfur. Following a request for assistance from the AU, NATO announced it would help the AU by airlifting AU peacekeepers and assisting them with training, organising headquarters and managing intelligence. SACEUR's Strategic Military Mission Order for NATO Logistical Support to the African Union Mission in Sudan was agreed by the NAC on 22 June 2005 and issued the following day. Subsequent revisions to the Strategic Military Mission Order included the deployment of NATO teams to Khartoum to assist in staff capability building. The AU Mission in Sudan continued until 31 December 2007.

## **29. (No Operation Name) NATO Relief Mission to the United States after Hurricane Katrina, 9 September - 2 October 2005**

After Hurricane Katrina struck the southern portion of the United States on 29 August 2005, causing many fatalities and widespread damage and flooding, the US government requested food, medical and logistics supplies and assistance in moving these supplies to the stricken areas. One day later, on 9 September 2005, the NAC approved SACEUR OPLAN 10304 for the provision of NATO assistance to the US. NATO then assisted in the coordination of the movement of urgently needed material and COM JC Lisbon conducted

selected NRF operations in support of humanitarian relief operations in the US. During the operation nine nations provided 189 tons of material to the US, which were moved by NRF and NAEW cargo flights as well as national flights coordinated by NATO.

**30. (No Operation Name) NATO Humanitarian Assistance to Pakistan, 11 October 2005 - 1 February 2006**

On 8 October 2005 a devastating earthquake struck northern Pakistan, killing at least 53,000 people, injuring 75,000 and making at least 4,000,000 homeless. The Pakistani government requested NATO assistance, and on 11 October the NAC approved SACEUR OPLAN 10305 to establish an air bridge to Pakistan using NRF air transport. COM JC Lisbon coordinated and delivered to Pakistan aid provided by the nations. On 21 October 2005 the NAC revised the OPLAN to provide additional assistance, and JC Lisbon deployed a Deployable Joint Task Force HQ (tactical) to Pakistan on 25 October, a force that was soon renamed the NATO Disaster Relief Team (NDRT) to better reflect its mission and avoid misperceptions by the Pakistanis. NATO assistance included Dutch military hospital, a Spanish engineering company and German helicopters. NATO forces completed their deployment to Pakistan on 6 December 2005 and the mission ended on 1 February 2006 at the request of the Pakistani government.

**31. (No Operation Name) NATO Support to Latvia during the Riga Summit, 22 August - 29 November 2006**

In response to a Latvian government request for assistance in assuring the security of the Riga Summit, NATO provided technical security, CBRN response capabilities, air and sea policing, improvised explosive device (IED) detections, communications and information systems and medical evacuation support.

**32. (No Operation Name) NATO support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, 7 June 2007 - Present**

On 22 May 2007 the African Union requested possible NATO airlift support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The NAC approved this request on 7 June 2007 and has continued to approve NATO support to AMISOM every six months since then. No requests for strategic airlift support have been received thus far, but NATO currently has a Senior Military Liaison Officer and two military planners deployed to the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**33. Operation ALLIED PROVIDER, 24 October - 12 December 2008**

In response to a request by the UN Secretary General for NATO assistance, warships from the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG 2) escorted World Food Programme (WFP) ships carrying relief supplies to Somalia in order to protect them against pirate attacks. The NATO warships provided close protection to the WFP chartered ships and also conducted deterrence patrols in the area most susceptible to pirate attacks against merchant shipping. The NATO ships also escorted a ship carrying vital military supplies for a Burundi battalion in AMISOM. Operation ALLIED PROVIDER was followed by the EU's Operation ATALANTA.

#### **34. Operation ALLIED PROTECTOR, 24 March – 17 August 2009**

To deal with the growing threat off the Horn of Africa and in the Gulf of Aden, NATO added a counter-piracy mission to the planned deployment of the Standing Naval Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1) to Asia. These counter-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa began on 24 March 2009 and continued until 20 April 2009, when SNMG1 departed for its long-planned visit to Karachi, Pakistan. But on 24 April NATO decided to cancel the other two port visits planned to Singapore and Australia, enabling the second phase of the operation to be brought forward to 1 May 2009 instead of the originally planned 30 June 2009. On 29 June SNMG2 took over responsibility for the operation from SNMG1.

#### **35. Operation OCEAN SHIELD, 17 August 2009 – Present**

On 17 August 2009 the North Atlantic Council approved a new counter-piracy operation containing a more comprehensive approach to the problem. Operation OCEAN SHIELD has therefore replaced the previous Operation ALLIED PROTECTOR. A key new element is NATO's efforts to assist states in the region to improve their own ability to combat piracy. The day-to-day maritime efforts against pirates are being conducted by Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2), which had previously been responsible for Operation ALLIED PROTECTOR.