

# Transatlantic Focus

## A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter

The United States Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

### Leaders Celebrate NATO 60th Anniversary and Boost Commitment to Afghanistan



“NATO was founded on the basis of a simple but solemn commitment: An attack on one is an attack on all. And from that foundation we forged the strongest Alliance in history, an Alliance that is stronger because it is made up of free nations.”

– President Obama, April 4, 2009

On April 3-4, NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary at a [Summit Meeting of NATO Heads of State in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany](#). In addition to commemorating six decades of common transatlantic security and values, this Summit marked historic decisions and new commitments made by the Alliance. Summit high points included: [two new NATO members: Albania and Croatia](#); [a renewed commitment to Afghanistan](#), with real deliverables on Election Support Force, operational mentoring and liaison teams (OMLTs), and financial support and a new [NATO Training Mission for Afghanistan](#); the launch of work on a new NATO Strategic Concept; French reintegration into the NATO military command structure; and [agreement on a new Secretary General](#).

At the completion of the Summit, President Obama noted the great progress made in these areas and remarked, “NATO was founded upon mutual responsibility to our common security. And today I’m confident that we took a substantial step forward in renewing our Alliance to meet the challenges of our time.”

- [President Obama News Conference](#)
- [President Obama Remarks Welcoming Albania and Croatia into NATO](#)
- [Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer Opening Remarks](#)
- [Joint Press Conference: Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer, President Sarkozy and Chancellor Merkel](#)
- [White House Fact Sheet on the NATO Summit](#)
- [NATO Declaration on Alliance Security](#)
- [Strasbourg / Kehl Summit Declaration](#)
- [NATO Summit Declaration on Afghanistan](#)

### Afghanistan



#### Allies Agree to New Initiatives in Afghanistan

A top priority for the NATO Summit was Afghanistan. The Allies agreed to several new initiatives to further enable Afghans take more

responsibility for their own security and to support peaceful elections scheduled for August 2009. NATO will establish a [NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan \(NTM-A\)](#) within the NATO-led [International Security Assistance Force \(ISAF\)](#) to oversee higher level training for the [Afghan National Army \(ANA\)](#) and training and mentoring for the [Afghan National Police \(ANP\)](#). Additionally, Allies agreed to provide operational mentoring and liaison teams (OMLT) in support of the enlargement of the ANA to its current target of 134,000 and to expand the role of the ANA Trust Fund to include sustainment costs. Allies also agreed to deploy additional forces to support the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) secure the upcoming elections.

At his news conference after the [North Atlantic Council \(NAC\)](#) meeting, President Obama spoke about the new [U.S. strategy for Afghanistan](#) and acknowledged Allies’ additional commitments. “Now, we’ll need more resources and a sustained effort to achieve our ultimate goals. But these commitments of troops, trainers and civilians represent a strong down payment on the future of our mission in Afghanistan and on the future of NATO. These are the new missions that NATO must take on in the 21st century, and these are the new capabilities that we need to succeed,” President Obama said.



#### NATO in Afghanistan Slideshow

NATO’s mission in Afghanistan is much more than a military operation. It involves a wide range of initiatives aimed at helping Afghans rebuild their

### NATO



#### Albania and Croatia Take Their Place in NATO

The NATO Summit in Strasbourg-Kehl marked the accession of Croatia and Albania to NATO, becoming the Alliance’s 27th and 28th members. In his [opening remarks](#), Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer welcomed the leaders of Albania and Croatia as they took their place in the North Atlantic Council (NAC) representing their countries as equal members within the Alliance for the first time. Speaking directly to the Albanian and Croatian leaders, he said, “Your countries’ membership in the Alliance is the result of long years of hard work during which you have showed a relentless drive to complete the necessary reforms. Albania and Croatia have well-earned their place at our table. Once again, you are very welcome in our midst.” President Obama also formally recognized them and presented the Presidents of Albania and Croatia with copies of the [Washington Treaty](#), NATO’s founding document signed by the original 12 members in Washington in 1949. Following the Summit, the Albanian and Croatian flags were ceremoniously raised to join those of other NATO Allies in front of NATO Headquarters in Brussels. [more](#)



#### Allies Agree on Next NATO Secretary General

In Strasbourg, Allies unanimously selected Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as NATO’s next [Secretary General](#). The Secretary General is the Alliance’s top international civil servant and is responsible for steering the process of consultation and decision-making in the Alliance and ensuring that decisions are implemented. The current Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, announced the selection noting that Mr. Rasmussen “is the man who will take up the transformation of NATO, and he’ll play an extremely important role in guiding NATO and

country after decades of war. To illustrate this variety of roles, USNATO has produced a slideshow, "From Guardian to Friend: The Many Faces and Roles of NATO in Afghanistan".

- View "[From Guardian to Friend: The Many Faces and Roles of NATO in Afghanistan](#)" slideshow



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guiding the now 28 Allies through the coming period of the 21st Century." Mr. Rasmussen will formally take up his duties on August 1, 2009 when Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer completes his term of service after five and a half years leading the Alliance.



#### Original Washington Treaty Honored at NATO Summit

To underscore the significance of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance, the U.S. Mission to NATO

worked with the U.S. National Archives to have NATO's founding document, the [Washington Treaty](#), on display during the Summit. Heads of State, Defense and Foreign Ministers from all 28 NATO Allies reviewed the document, and spoke with Archivist Dr. Michael Kurtz about the Treaty's significant role in binding together the Alliance in a commitment to common security and formed the foundation for six decades of transatlantic security. In his [opening remarks](#), Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer noted, "At the signing ceremony of this Treaty, on April 4, 1949, the original copy of which is here in front of us, one of the statesmen present expressed his hope that this Treaty between North America and Europe would become a 'permanent creation.' Today, we can say with considerable pride that his hopes have come true."

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