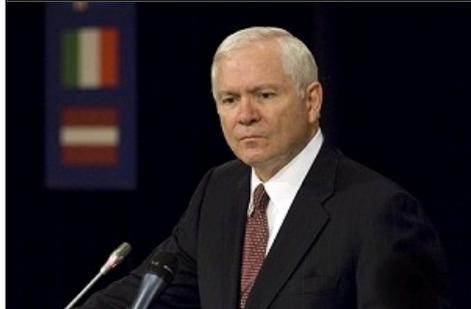


# Transatlantic Focus

## A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter



### Allied Defense Ministers to Meet in Brussels



On June 11-12, Secretary Gates will travel to Brussels for the first formal meeting of NATO Defense Ministers since the [Strasbourg-Kehl Summit](#) in April, and Ministers are expected to cover a broad range of operational topics. Ministers will be considering the new [U.S. strategy review on Afghanistan](#) conducted in consultation with Allies and partners and supported by NATO. Ministers will look at how to implement the new strategy, including the [NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan \(NTM-A\)](#), provide election support, and ensure resources for the long-term.

Defense Ministers will also review the [NATO-led mission in Kosovo \(KFOR\)](#) which involves over 14,000 troops. With the standup of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), and [EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo \(EULEX\)](#) reaching its full operational capability in April, KFOR is the "third responder." Ministers are also expected to review the situation in Kosovo, and consider KFOR troop levels. Any

decision to move towards a deterrent presence would be made by Ministers "on the basis of political as well as military assessments," said NATO Spokesman James Appathurai at a [June 9 briefing](#).

Piracy has become an increasingly important international issue and Ministers will take stock of [on-going anti-piracy operations](#) and long-term efforts to combat piracy. The [North Atlantic Council \(NAC\)](#) will discuss aspects of a long-term NATO operation as [Standing NATO Maritime Group One \(SNMG-1\)](#) completes the current anti-piracy operation one June 30.

NATO's [Defense Planning Committee](#) will convene at the Defense Minister level for the first time since France rejoined [NATO military structures](#), focusing topics that are expected to include the [defense planning process](#), [NATO Response Force](#), [Allied Ground Surveillance](#), [strategic airlift](#), the UK-French Helicopter Initiative, and others.

A key strength of NATO is its extensive partnership with non-member nations including those in the [Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council \(EAPC\)](#). The EAPC will meet for planning and review and to discuss defense reform and interoperability among Partner nations.

### Afghanistan



#### Lt. General McChrystal Stresses Safety of Civilians in Afghanistan Mission

President Obama's nominee for Commander of NATO ISAF and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, [Lieutenant General Stanley McChrystal](#) appeared before the [Senate Armed Services Committee](#) on June 2, articulating his objectives for the future of U.S. operations in Afghanistan. The war is winnable, he said, underscoring the importance of protecting of Afghan civilians. "I believe that providing the Afghan people – battered by 30 years of almost unbroken violence – an opportunity to shape their future requires our firm commitment and demonstrates the values that underpin America's credibility world wide," he said, later adding, "this is a struggle for the support of the Afghan people." Lt. General McChrystal emphasized tactical concerns as well, such as a need for precision military operations and effective Afghan security forces. "Presently, ISAF forces are conducting security and stability operations, providing senior leadership in all five regional commands, and are directly involved in the mentoring, training and equipping of the Afghan National Army. I look forward to listening to, learning from, and leading this team in our common challenge," Lieutenant General McChrystal said.



#### "Good Performers Initiative" Rewards Poppy-free Afghan Provinces

On May 28, 2009, the U.S. and Afghanistan signed a memorandum of agreement awarding over \$6,437,000 to seven provinces in Afghanistan, recognizing their efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce poppy cultivation. This incentive is part of the [Good Performers Initiative](#), aimed at reducing illicit opiate production, which provides funding to the Taliban. Tackling poppy production in Afghanistan is one component in a multifaceted counter-insurgency strategy that contributes to U.S. and NATO operations in the region. Afghanistan, which previously accounted for more than 82 percent of global poppy production, reduced poppy cultivation by almost 20 percent in 2008. Eighteen of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were poppy free, and another nine provinces reported only a very small amount of poppy. Narcotics cultivation was mainly confined to five provinces in the south, where insecurity makes it difficult for the government to use law enforcement against narcotics. [more](#)

### Balkans



#### U.S. Reaffirms Commitment to Kosovo and Peace in the Balkans

Vice President Joe Biden recently traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Kosovo to reaffirm the continuing U.S. commitment to security in the Balkans. Over 14,000 troops from 33 countries, including 25 NATO members, from the [NATO-led Kosovo Force \(KFOR\)](#) are still deployed in Kosovo to help maintain a safe and secure environment for all of Kosovo's citizens.

The Vice President spoke of the need to heal ethnic divisions and look to a future integrated with Europe and western institutions. At Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, he praised the efforts of KFOR troops and underscored the importance of their work. "This mission brings stability and prosperity to Kosovo and it symbolizes the way that NATO has reached out beyond its original boundaries and mission to provide security in places that need help like this one, and in turn enhance our security," Biden said. He added that the troops "demonstrate every day what we call the new NATO." [more](#)

- [Vice President Biden Remarks to Troops at Camp Bondsteel](#)
- [Vice President Biden Remarks to the Assembly of Kosovo](#)
- [Vice President Biden Remarks in Serbia](#)
- [Vice President Biden Address to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

### NATO



#### NATO Training in Georgia a Success

[Partnership for Peace Cooperative Lancer 09 and Cooperative Longbow 09](#), concluded on June 1, marking the fourth year in which these programs have strengthened the ability of NATO Allies and partner nations to work together. These cooperative missions are aimed at promoting multinational military interoperability and standardization, ensuring that NATO partners can



### NATO, Afghan and Pakistani Troops Improve Coordination

Located just a few miles from the Afghan-Pakistani border, the Khyber Border Coordination Center (KBCC) has brought Pakistani, Afghan and NATO [International Security Assistance Force \(ISAF\)](#) troops together to improve communication and coordination. This effort strengthens security along the Afghan-Pakistani border, a crucial concern of Afghan

and ISAF forces working to establish stability in the area.

Taliban insurgents and Al-Qaeda terrorists have used the difficult border terrain for safe-haven and to facilitate crossing into Afghanistan and launching attacks. With the KBCC fully operational, the two nations and ISAF are able to coordinate a response together almost instantly. [more](#)



### Ambassador Daalder : "A Full and Urgent Agenda for NATO in the 21st Century"

In a June 8 speech before the Security and Defence Agenda (SDA), U.S. Ambassador to

NATO Ivo Daalder delved into the challenges facing NATO and articulated the vision of the new U.S. Administration. "NATO today is accomplishing things that only a few years ago were unimaginable," he said to over 200 members of SDA, journalists, and fellow diplomats. Ambassador Daalder emphasized NATO's three fundamental priorities, which he identified as NATO's mission in Afghanistan, the relationship between NATO and Russia, and the prospect of building a new Alliance for the future.

"We have to find a way to do more, with greater efficiency of resources, and in partnership with others. That means America doing more, Europe doing more, our Partners doing more," said Ambassador Daalder.

- Speech: [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

respond jointly and efficiently to contemporary security demands. Previous Longbow/Lancer exercises have been conducted in Moldova, Albania, and Armenia. Georgia has committed forces to Iraq, working side by side with other partner countries and NATO allies. The exercises have helped to promote a NATO commitment to security and multilateral partnership.

## Cybersecurity



### President Obama Creates New Cybersecurity Coordinator Position

On May 29, President Obama outlined the seriousness of the cyber threat to the nation's digital infrastructure, saying it is "one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation." To respond to that challenge, he announced the creation of a new office

in the White House, led by a Cybersecurity Coordinator, to orchestrate the high-level efforts to protect the U.S. digital infrastructure. The new Cybersecurity Coordinator is expected to be named soon and will be part of the President's new National Security Staff. [more](#)

NATO also recognizes threats to the Alliance's cyber security as an important strategic consideration. Last year, seven NATO nations and NATO's capabilities transformation command agreed to the formal establishment of a [Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence \(CCD COE\)](#) in order to enhance NATO's cyber defense capability.

- [President Obama Remarks on Securing the Nation's Cyber Infrastructure](#)
- [Cybersecurity Chief at the National Security Council Remarks on Securing the Nation's Digital Future](#)

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is published and distributed by the Public Affairs Section of the United States Mission to NATO - Brussels.