

# Transatlantic Focus

## A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter



UNITED STATES MISSION TO  
**NATO**



### Crisis in Georgia



**President Bush Announces \$1B in Economic Support to Georgia.** The United States will deliver a new \$1 billion recovery package to help Georgia meet immediate humanitarian needs, enhance its stability and regain its position as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. "The people of Georgia withstood the assault from the Russian military, and the international community rallied to stand with the people of Georgia and their democratically elected government," President Bush said in a September 3 statement announcing the new aid effort. [more](#)

- [Statement by President Bush on Georgia](#)
- [Remarks by Secretary Rice on U.S. Economic Support Package for Georgia](#)
- [Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Georgia](#)

**U.S. military delivers over two million pounds of aid to Georgia.** After two weeks of humanitarian relief operations, the U.S. military reached another milestone by delivering over two million pounds of aid to Georgia in the wake of conflicts there. The U.S. military's role in the overall humanitarian assistance effort, dubbed "Operation Assured Delivery" has delivered 2,174,000 pounds of food, water, bedding, and medical supplies to displaced persons and people in need at the request of the government of Georgia. [more](#)



**NATO Strengthens Ties with Georgia and Reaffirms Commitment to Georgia's NATO Membership.** On August 19, after a special meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers, NATO announced that it will strengthen its ties

to Georgia through a new commission designed to support reconstruction and stabilization in the aftermath of the conflict that erupted over the Georgian breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The new NATO-Georgia Commission, similar to a body established in 1997 to oversee NATO relations with Ukraine, will help Georgia assess damages from the Russian incursion and restore essential services to communities in the conflict zone. During the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the Foreign Ministers also expressed their support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reaffirmed their commitment to the [Bucharest Summit Declaration](#) which stated both Georgia and Ukraine will one day become NATO members. [more](#)

- [North Atlantic Council Statement](#)
- [Secretary Rice Remarks after NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting](#)



**NATO-Ukraine Commission Condemns Russia's Recognition of Georgia's Breakaway Regions.** On August 27, the Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Konstantyn Yeliseyev, Presidential Special Envoy to

Georgia, attended a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) to discuss with NATO Permanent Representatives the security situation in the Euro-Atlantic area in the context of the current situation in Georgia.

Special Envoy Yeliseyev presented Allies with Ukraine's perception of the situation in Georgia, based on his recent visits to Georgia, and Ukraine's position regarding recent developments in that country. He expressed Ukraine's deep concern over the situation in Georgia and its readiness to contribute to the settlement of the conflict.

The NUC expressed support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Partner nations and condemned Russia's decision to extend recognition to the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of Georgia. Allies also reiterated their support for the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Georgia and Ukraine outlined in the [NATO Bucharest Summit Declaration](#).

- [NATO-Ukraine Commission Chairman's Statement](#)

### NATO



**We Need a Strong NATO with a Big Vision.** In his first trip as U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, Ambassador Kurt Volker traveled to Oslo, Norway and spoke at the Norwegian Foreign Policy Institute. In

his remarks, Ambassador Volker discussed the situation in Georgia and the NATO position as outlined in the [NATO statement of Foreign Ministers](#) on August 19. Ambassador Volker stressed that the conflict in Georgia underscored that while the Cold War is over, threats to our democratic, transatlantic community remain and, because of this, Europe and North America still need a strong, modern NATO with "a vision big enough to accommodate both the unwavering support for a Europe whole, free and at peace, and a relationship with Russia and any others in the world who will join with us in building a more peaceful, stable, secure, and prosperous world."

- [Remarks by Ambassador Volker at Norwegian Foreign Policy Institute](#)

**NATO ships in Black Sea on routine visit, unrelated to Georgia crisis.** The Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1), a group of NATO warships, has been conducting routine port visits and exercises with NATO member nations bordering the Black Sea since 21 August. This deployment is routine in nature and has been planned for over a year, notification of the requirement to transit the Turkish Straits was given in June well before the current Georgia crisis and is completely unrelated. In accordance with the terms of the Montreux Convention, the ships will stay no longer than 21 days in the Black Sea. [more](#)

- [Standing NATO Maritime Group One](#)

### Afghanistan



**Progress in Rebuilding the Afghan National Security Forces.** A major aspect of NATO and U.S. strategy in Afghanistan is enabling Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own security by training and rebuilding both the Afghan

National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP). It is the mission of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A), in partnership with the Afghan government and the international community, to plan and implement a program of structural, organizational, institutional and management reforms of the ANA and ANP.

The ANA is now more than 63,000 strong and is expected to reach 80,000 by next spring. "They are taking the lead in the majority of combat operations and are demonstrating with every military engagement that they are a professional, well-led force respected by the Afghans and feared by the insurgents," said Major General Robert Cone, Commander CSTC-A.

According to Major General Cone, the ANP, with nearly 73,000 in uniform, has also shown positive signs of progress over the past months. CSTC-A continues to emphasize a program called Focused District Development which is a comprehensive approach to police reform that redefines policing from the ground up. Another tactic has been the deployment of Police Mentoring Teams (PMTs) to work together with their Afghan counterparts to ensure the district policemen's administrative problems involving pay, logistics, training and personnel are taken care of so the ANP can focus on their mission, protecting the people of Afghanistan.

- [Commanding General Message](#)
- [CSTC-A Fact Sheet](#)
- [Konduz PMTs hone police force capability](#)

### Upcoming NATO Events

- North Atlantic Council visit to Georgia



**Current Events Are a  
Reminder: Why  
NATO's Important.**

[Ambassador Volker Video  
Message](#)

[Transcript](#)

15-16 September 2008

- Informal Meeting of NATO Defense Ministers  
London, United Kingdom,  
18-19 September 2008
- Informal meeting of NATO Defense Ministers  
Budapest, Hungary, 9-10 October 2008

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