

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE**  
**May 27 - June 2, 2011**

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**1. [NATO to Build on Lessons of Afghanistan for Future \(06-02-2011\)](#)**

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2011 – A week after NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen made a firsthand assessment of progress in transferring increased security responsibility to Afghan security forces, the alliance's supreme allied commander for transformation is focused on building on lessons learned in Afghanistan for the future.

Rasmussen visited Afghanistan last week to reaffirm NATO's long-term commitment as seven sections of the country, including the city of Herat in western Afghanistan, prepare to transition to Afghan security responsibility July 1. Speaking during an online video blog, Rasmussen called the city "an example of how Afghanistan can start progress toward Afghan leadership."

Lauding progress made during meetings that included International Security Assistance Force Commander Army Gen. David H. Petraeus and Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan Simon Gass, Rasmussen made clear during a news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai that NATO won't turn its back on Afghanistan.

"Those who threaten Afghanistan's future should be under no illusion," he said. "NATO is and remains committed to Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, operating at the only U.S.-based NATO command, in Norfolk, Va., French air force Gen. Stephane Abrial, NATO's supreme allied commander for transformation, emphasized the

importance of building on lessons learned by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

“My hope is that we do not lose the lessons we have identified and learned in Afghanistan,” he said. “We need to keep them to prepare the troops for the future, and also to continue developing the know-how and the capabilities we need for this type of warfare.”

But Abrial emphasized that NATO forces can’t concentrate only on those lessons, thinking that “the last war we have fought is the same as the future war we are going to be facing.”

“We need to keep an open mind,” he said, keeping prepared to address the full spectrum of challenges from conventional to nonconventional warfare. That concept needs to guide the way the alliance prepares, organizes and equips for the future, he said.

“We need ... to make sure that for the future, we can be ready for anything,” Abrial continued. “Who knows what is going to happen tomorrow? ... Will there be another crisis somewhere else? Will we be asked to intervene somewhere, and in which form, which fashion?”

What applied to Afghanistan may not apply elsewhere, he warned.

“We cannot say, ‘OK, whatever happens, we will do a new Afghanistan again. No way,” Abrial said. “So don’t forget the important lessons – but don’t concentrate [only] on this type of environment.”

Abrial called the flexibility provided by NATO’s new strategic concept key to ensuring the alliance remains relevant as it faces the future.

“To make sure that we can face any kind of challenge that will arise in the next 10 years, flexibility is absolutely paramount,” he said. “We have to make sure the concept will not be made obsolete when we encounter the first strategic surprise. And if you look at history, military history is just a string of strategic surprises.”

Surprises in the future are certain, Abrial asserted. “The challenge is that we can face the surprise, and be ready to solve the crisis we will face,” he added.

Abrial shared Rasmussen’s commitment to seeing the mission through in Afghanistan, calling it a demonstration of NATO’s unity. As the security transition takes place there, Abrial said, he believes the forces freed up could be reinvested somewhere else, possibly as trainers.

“So my vision is that NATO is on the right track, and that the nations will continue to ... make this transition possible, together,” he said.

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## **2. Mullen: Long-term Relationship Vital Between U.S., Pakistan (06-02-2011)**

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2011 – Pakistan’s senior military leaders believe a long-term relationship with the United States is important despite ongoing tensions between the countries, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here today.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told the Defense Writers Group that during recent meetings in Pakistan -- one in April and one last week with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton -- military, political and diplomatic leaders are committed to working with the United States on mutual issues such as terrorism.

“It is important to figure out how we can engage each other, particularly in these areas that mutually threaten us,” Mullen said. “At the top of that list is the terrorism threat in that country, in that region, that affects all of us.”

Ongoing tensions have intensified since the May 1 death of Osama bin Laden at the hands of American forces inside his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, Mullen said.

Discovery of the al-Qaida leader in Pakistan, where he had lived for at least five years, has prompted investigations and the formation of a commission by Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to seek the facts surrounding bin Laden’s presence there, the admiral said.

Mullen said he has seen no evidence that senior military or government leaders knew about the compound. The discovery also caused a period of “internal introspection” for the Pakistani army, he added.

“They’re going to have to get through that,” he said, “and I think we need to give them the time and space to do that. ... When something happens, you’re going to ask a lot of questions, and that’s what they’re doing right now.”

Over three and a half years, Mullen and Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the Pakistani army’s chief of staff, have developed what the admiral calls “a very strong personal and professional relationship.” Such a relationship “is critical, and even more critical in difficult times than in times when things are going well,” the chairman said.

“It would be almost impossible to be picking up the phone for the first time and calling him or going to see him for the first time in the middle of this crisis and expect to have anything happen,” he added.

Pakistan is a critical country in a critical region, Mullen said.

“They’re tied directly to our success against al-Qaida, they’re tied directly to our potential success in Afghanistan, and it’s a region that we walked away from many years ago and here we are,” he said.

The admiral said coalition forces in Afghanistan have taken “enormously positive steps in the east” over the past year.

“Helmand is almost turned, ... and certainly Kandahar is a different place than it was a year ago,” he added.

Challenges there are still substantial, Mullen added, noting that he remains concerned about the Afghan government’s ability to provide for its people at the provincial, district and sub-district levels.

Another challenge involves a Pakistani effort to do more to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries in North Waziristan, where the Haqqani network and other extremist groups use the tribal-area province to plan and launch attacks against NATO troops in Afghanistan.

In meetings in Pakistan with Clinton, Mullen said, "I was encouraged by the commitment on both sides to work in particular the terrorist issues jointly."

North Waziristan and the Haqqani network are central to a long-term solution with respect to instability and terrorism in that area, Mullen added. "It's something that we routinely discuss," he said.

### **3. New START Treaty Aggregate Numbers of Offensive Arms (06-01-2011)**

New START Treaty Aggregate Numbers of Strategic Offensive Arms  
(As of February 5, 2011, as drawn from the initial exchange of data by the Parties)/[1]

Category of Data	United States of America	Russian Federation
Deployed ICBMs, Deployed SLBMs, and Deployed Heavy Bombers	882	521
Warheads on Deployed ICBMs, on Deployed SLBMs, and Nuclear Warheads Counted for Deployed Heavy Bombers	1800	1537
Deployed and Non-deployed Launchers of ICBMs, Deployed and Non-deployed Launchers of SLBMs, and Deployed and Non-deployed Heavy Bombers	1124	865

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[1] Data in this Fact Sheet comes from the initial exchange of data required by the Treaty no later than 45 days after entry into force of the Treaty, or March 22, 2011. It contains data declared current as of the February 5, 2011, date of entry into force of the Treaty. Data will be updated each six month period after entry into force of the Treaty.

### **4. Obama Praises Poland's Leadership in Democratic, Economic Reforms (05-28-2011)**

By Merle Kellerhals  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama wrapped up a six-day, four-nation trip to Europe May 28, praising the influence Poland has exerted on the region and the world by its rapid economic modernization and democratic reforms in the aftermath of the half-century-long Cold War.

In reflecting on Poland's emergence from Soviet repression during the Cold War in the 20th century, Obama said that Poland has "charted a course for freedom that inspired many on this continent and beyond. And it has many relevant lessons, so we want to encourage all states undergoing similar experiences to learn from Poland."

Obama met May 28 with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw for extensive talks on a broad range of security and economic issues. It was Obama's first visit to Poland since taking office and capped off his European tour that included Ireland, Britain and France.

In praising Poland's more than two decades of struggle to become one of Europe's most significant new democracies, Obama emphasized that the nations of the Middle East and North Africa — and specifically Egypt and Tunisia — are also struggling in their transitions to democracy and could benefit from Poland's example.

"We all know that in the aftermath of the overthrow of a repressive regime, emotions run high," Obama said in a briefing with Komorowski. "But new democratic governments have to show themselves to be able to channel that energy in constructive ways, to hold themselves to higher standards than their authoritarian predecessors in being inclusive, respecting the rule of law, respecting minority rights, believing in freedom of expression even when we don't agree with what's being expressed."

"And so I think that Poland has navigated that process as well as any country in recent history," Obama added.

Obama arrived in Warsaw late May 27. He attended a private dinner set up by Poland to meet in a "minisummit" with 18 Central and Eastern European leaders. The countries represented at the dinner were Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, as well as Poland.

"What I emphasized was that a strong, integrated Europe is very much in the security and economic interests of the United States," Obama told reporters after meeting with Komorowski.

Obama said he wanted to encourage that process for the region. The United States and Poland, he said, want to make certain that NATO and European Union memberships remain open to those nations — and Poland's example as a democracy and a market-based economy is a model and example.

#### INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED

Obama, Komorowski and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on May 28 announced several initiatives aimed at strengthening the U.S.-Polish alliance.

- The United States and Poland concluded a bilateral agreement to establish in 2012 a U.S. Air Force Aviation Detachment in Poland to serve military aircraft that will rotate through Poland. The detachment will help train Polish air force personnel in the use of F-16 fighter jets and C-130 cargo planes purchased from the United States. And elements from the California Air National Guard, flying F-16 jets, will also participate in the July 2011 SAFE SKIES training exercise with Polish F-16s, the White House said.

- Obama, Komorowski and Tusk also discussed the next steps in the European Phased Adaptive Approach to limited missile defense. The United States welcomed Poland's May ratification of the Missile Defense Agreement.
- Obama and Tusk also agreed to convene a special session of the Polish-U.S. Strategic Dialogue to promote comprehensive efforts to develop new clean and sustainable energy sources, including wind, clean coal, unconventional sources of natural gas (such as shale gas) and nuclear power, the White House said.
- Obama endorsed legislation co-sponsored by members of the U.S. Congress that would reform how countries qualify for the visa waiver program and specifically to extend the program to Poles traveling to the United States.
- Poland and the United States also announced convening of a high-level U.S.-Polish Business Roundtable to bring the private sectors and top government officials from the two nations together to identify and promote new commercial opportunities.
- The United States and Poland announced the expansion and joint funding of the U.S.-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program to bring American and Polish high school students for visits to each country.
- The United States and Poland condemned the actions taken by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko and those responsible for the crackdown in Belarus. The United States and Poland announced joint efforts to support civil society, including expansion of Kirkland and Kalinowski Scholarships for Belarusian youth, Belsat television programming, and collaboration through Poland's new International Solidarity Foundation.

[Press Briefing by President Obama, Polish Prime Minister Tusk](#)  
[Obama Letter to Key Legislators on Poland and Visa Waiver Program](#)

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## **5. Clinton Says U.S. Will Continue Support for Pakistan (05-27-2011)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said during a brief visit to Islamabad May 27 that the United States will continue to support Pakistan, its elected leaders and its people.

“The United States knows that Pakistan’s future is imperatively important for us, but even more so for the people themselves,” Clinton said.

“We look toward a strong Pakistan, one that is democratic, one that is prosperous and stable, being a cornerstone for regional stability and global security,” she said at a press conference at the U.S. Embassy along with U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Mullen joined Clinton in meetings with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, Army Chief of Staff General Ashfaq Kayani, and General Ahmad Shuja Pasha, who is chief of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence.

The brief visit to Pakistan's capital city was characterized by Clinton as "a turning point" in relations between the two nations, which have forged strong ties through a U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue that has brought the two governments together to discuss a full range of common concerns.

The talks were extensive, open, frank and constructive, Clinton told reporters. The visit comes in the aftermath of a U.S. raid on a safe house in Abbottabad May 2 in which terrorist leader and mass murder Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. military forces.

"This was an especially important visit because we have reached a turning point," Clinton told reporters. "Osama bin Laden is dead, but al-Qaida and its syndicate of terror remain a serious threat to us both."

Clinton told reporters that the United States will not abandon its alliance with Pakistan. The United States relies on Pakistan for a key supply route to allied forces in neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan has also been a valuable ally in dealing with Taliban insurgents who use remote mountainous areas at the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The United States seeks to defeat violent extremism, end the conflict in Afghanistan and ensure a secure, stable, democratic and prosperous future for Pakistan, Clinton said.

Mullen said that everyone in the discussions realized the challenges that the relationship faces. "But now is not the time for retreat or for recrimination. Now is the time for action and closer coordination; for more cooperation, not less; for the friendship to get stronger, not weaker," Mullen said.

[Clinton, Admiral Mullen on U.S.-Pakistan Relationship](#)

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## **6. Help from G8 for Democracy in Middle East and North Africa (05-27-2011)**

Fact Sheet: G-8 and the Middle East and North Africa

Recognizing the historic changes underway in the Middle East and North Africa, President Obama joined with G-8 leaders, the Prime Ministers of Egypt and Tunisia, the Secretary General of the Arab League, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank to launch the "Deauville Partnership" with the people of the Middle East and North Africa.

Building on the new economic vision that the President laid out on March 19, the United States will work with other G-8 leaders, international financial institutions and UN agencies, countries willing to contribute to democratization and modernization in the region, and the private sector to achieve common goals to support transitions in the region. The Partnership is based on two pillars:

- A Political Process. This process is intended to support the democratic transition and foster governance reforms, notably the fight against corruption and the strengthening of the institutions needed to ensure transparency and accountable government.
- An Economic Framework. This framework is intended to support sustainable and inclusive growth and to support Partnership countries in the economic and social reforms that they will undertake, particularly to create jobs and enshrine the fair rule of law. The framework

also aims to ensure that short-term economic stability underpins the challenge of transition to stable democracies.

Democratization and a broadening of economic opportunity go hand in hand, and the United States will work with Partnership countries to develop an economic agenda to support these objectives. In the short term, Partnership countries will work to support economic stabilization to ensure that instability does not undermine the process of political reform, and that social cohesion and macroeconomic stability are maintained. Over the medium-to-long term, the United States will work to support a broadening of economic opportunity for the people of the region.

**Economic Stabilization.** Egypt and Tunisia had positive economic outlooks before recent unrest but are facing a series of economic dislocations associated with the transition. G-8 leaders welcomed assessments by the IMF and look forward to its continued engagement with countries in the region. G-8 leaders:

- Called on the IMF to respond with the necessary financial support to help meet the external financing needs of countries in the region committed to economic stability and a macroeconomic framework.
- Welcomed the joint action plan that multilateral development banks (MDBs) presented and called on MDBs to deliver enhanced, frontloaded and coordinated support to Partnership Countries based on strong economic programs to strengthen governance and bolster the business climate. G-8 leaders also recognize the role that regional players can play in helping to mitigate near-term financial pressures.

**Broadening Economic Opportunity over the Medium-to-Long Term.** While Egypt and Tunisia registered economic growth over the past decade, these gains were not widely disbursed. Over the medium and long term, the United States and other members of the G-8 commit to support Partnership countries in addressing underlying economic challenges in order to broaden economic opportunity. To achieve these goals the G-8 will:

- Rely on repositioned and coordinated multilateral development banks' actions.
- Leverage the experience of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in accompanying economic transition.

**Changing the Scale of Trade and Investment Integration.** G-8 leaders committed to supporting the integration of the Partnership countries in the regional and global economy through increased trade and inward investment to the region. In this regard, G-8 leaders:

- Encouraged and agreed to support through bilateral and multilateral channels the efforts of MENA countries to bolster further regional trade and investment integration, including through trade facilitation, reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, access to the service sector, the promotion of direct investments, and regulatory convergence.
- Offered to consider additional support through, inter alia, improved market access opportunities, including the following initiatives:

-- As President Obama outlined on May 19, the United States will launch a comprehensive Trade and Investment Partnership Initiative in the Middle East and North Africa. This will facilitate more trade within the region, build on existing agreements to promote integration with other markets, and

open the door for those countries that adopt high standards of reform and trade liberalization to construct a high-profile regional trade arrangement.

-- The European Union (EU) will reinvigorate and strengthen its neighborhood policy towards Partnership countries to provide greater support to those engaged in building democracies. The EU is considering launching negotiations on trade and economic integration partnerships with them, which will bring them progressively closer to the EU single market.

Committing to develop the Partnership, to monitor the process of transition, and to ensure that reform is matched by the response of the international communities, G-8 leaders asked senior officials of their foreign and finance ministries to meet in coming months to define the framework of the Partnership and to take this work forward. G-8 leaders agreed to assess the Partnership at their next meeting under the chairmanship of the United States in 2012.

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## **7. G8 Summit Sought Common Solutions to Global Challenges (05-27-2011)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The Deauville Group of Eight (G8) Summit of major industrialized nations was focused on developing common solutions to some of the world's most vexing security and economic challenges.

President Obama, who is on a four-nation, six-day European trip, praised French President Nicolas Sarkozy "for the leadership that he's shown on the world stage over the last several years," and for guiding to a successful conclusion the summit of G8 leaders in Deauville on the Normandy coast.

"As President Sarkozy indicated, we had an enormous convergence of approaches and views on the challenges that we face around the world," Obama said at a brief May 27 joint press conference with Sarkozy.

The summit leaders discussed a wide range of issues from Afghanistan to Iran, the Arab Spring, Libya, Middle East peace, the needs of many African nations, and the world economy.

Obama, who has traveled to Ireland, Britain, France and a final stop in Poland, gave a sweeping address to the British Parliament in London May 25, paying tribute to protesters in Tehran, Damascus, Cairo, and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa. He called on Britain and the United States to support them in their quest for democratic governance and freedom.

"In country after country, people are mobilizing to free themselves from the grip of an iron fist," the president said. "We are the nations most willing to stand up for the values of tolerance and self-determination that lead to peace and dignity."

The president said at his press conference in Deauville that the G8 leaders agreed that the changes in the Middle East and North Africa have made the pursuit of peace between the Israelis and Palestinians more urgent.

"We agreed to coordinate closely in encouraging the parties to sit down around the negotiating table and to resolve this issue in a way that creates a Palestinian state that is sovereign and an Israeli state that is secure, the two states living side by side in peace," Obama said.

The G8 leaders also discussed the enormous opportunities and challenges that have been presented by the Arab Spring and how they can fully support Egypt and Tunisia as they transition to democracy, Obama said.

The leaders addressed the progress being made in the Libya campaign, but meeting the “U.N. mandate of civilian protection cannot be accomplished when Muammar Qadhafi remains in Libya directing his forces in acts of aggression against the Libyan people,” Obama said.

France hosted the G8 summit in Deauville May 26–27, and will also host the Group of 20 (G20) major and emerging economies in Cannes November 3–4.

[Results from G8 Summit in Deauville, France](#)

[White House Roundup of G8 Summit](#)

[Declaration of G8 on Arab Spring](#)

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