

# Transatlantic Focus

## A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter



### United States and Russia Agree on Military Transit for Afghanistan



Following a meeting of the [NATO-Russia Council in Corfu](#) at the end of June, Presidents Obama and Medvedev met in Moscow for a summit July 6-8. Officials discussed topics including a follow-on agreement to START, nuclear security, and cooperation in Afghanistan. Both meetings comprise an important effort to communicate with Russia on key issues where NATO and Russian interests align, working to reestablish NATO-Russia relations after the country's 2008 aggression in Georgia. During the summit negotiations, Under Secretary of State William Burns and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov established an agreement that will allow the United States to transport military personnel and equipment through Russian air space, supplementing an [existing NATO-Russia arrangement](#) that allows for land transit of non-lethal equipment through Russian territory. The [new U.S.-Russia transit agreement](#) will allow up to 4,500 flights carrying essential military supplies to Afghanistan, expediting the resupply process for international forces and the Afghan government and people. It will further diversify supply routes and reduce the costs of transport, making this agreement both a collaborative step toward a 'reset' in U.S.-Russia relations and a critical contribution to the [NATO mission in Afghanistan](#).

### Marine Mission in Helmand Province Aims to Provide Long-Term Stability



Almost 4,000 U.S. Marines joined about 650 Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police forces for the launch of [Operation Khanjar](#) in Helmand Province on July 2. Troops moved into the southeastern Taliban stronghold with the goal of pushing the Taliban out and securing the area, part of an effort to stabilize the country and better connect local Afghans to their central government. The success of Khanjar, which means "strike of the sword," will depend upon the ability of the Afghan army and police to hold the ground gained during the Helmand operation, assuring citizens of their safety and signifying an important step toward Afghan control of the security situation in the country. The U.S. troops in Operation Khanjar are part of a [new U.S. strategy](#) that includes a surge of 21,000 U.S. forces to provide counter-insurgency protection in advance of the August 20 national elections.

- [ISAF Mission](#)

### NATO Operation in Kosovo Moves to "Deterrent Presence"



After nearly ten years of NATO engagement in Kosovo, Alliance defense ministers have decided to gradually adjust the [KFOR](#) force posture based on improvements in the political and security environment. The adjustment will take the total number of NATO forces from 14,000 to a "deterrent presence" of 10,000 by January 1, 2010. In a [press conference](#), [NATO Secretary General](#) Jaap de Hoop Scheffer described the transition as a move toward a smaller force "relying more on flexibility and intelligence." This new force posture is intended to place the provision of security more fully in the hands of Kosovo's police and military. Each phase of this gradual process, the Secretary General said, will take place not only on military advice but on a thorough analysis of the political environment in Kosovo, where NATO peacekeepers have maintained the security situation and provided humanitarian assistance as mandated in [UN Resolution 1244](#) since 1999, when it engaged in a [78-day intervention](#) to quell territorial tensions. The decision came during a [NATO Defense Ministerial](#) at NATO headquarters in Brussels on June 11 and 12, and is an indication of the progress that Kosovo has made toward ensuring its own security. Secretary General Scheffer added that the decision was "achieved among other things through sustained international support, Euro-Atlantic integration, and the political courage of many people in the region."



**Ambassador Daalder Speaks in Berlin about Transatlantic Commitment**



### Operation Facebook: ISAF Announces New Tactical Directive Online

[General Stanley McChrystal](#), Commander of NATO ISAF forces, announced the release of a new Tactical Directive for the NATO mission on July 2. The directive updates

previous guidance on goals and strategies for the ongoing counterinsurgency campaign and provides substantive instruction on what General McChrystal has called a "cultural shift" in military operations in Afghanistan.

The Tactical Directive, posted on Facebook and published in a release, marks a formalized communication of General McChrystal's vision for engagement in Afghanistan, first articulated in his [June 2 Senate confirmation hearing](#). The revised strategy aims to reduce civilian casualties, increase Afghan responsibility for security and win Afghan public support. "Working together with our Afghan partners," the document says, "we can overcome the enemy's influence and give the Afghan people what they deserve: a country at peace for the first time in three decades, foundations of good governance, and economic development."

The announcement was first broadcast on the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Facebook page, demonstrating the Pentagon's effort to reach out through new media outlets including Twitter and YouTube. The sites have become key information-sharing tools for NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, helping to contact new audiences and keep the public informed.

- [U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Facebook Page](#)
- [U.S. Mission to NATO Facebook Page](#)

### New Strategic Concept for a New Century



International security and strategy experts gathered in Brussels on July 7 to kick off the formal revision of



[U.S. Ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder](#) delivered a [speech](#) at the July 1 Transatlantic Forum in Berlin, in which he discussed the

changing security challenges facing Alliance members and the necessity of transatlantic cooperation. He highlighted the specific opportunities for Germany within that collaborative framework "to lead in charting a new a better future" at home and as a contributing NATO member. The speech comes at a time when the U.S. is actively engaged in motivating contributions to NATO initiatives, particularly the [NATO mission in Afghanistan](#). In order to achieve sustainable results and maintain multilateral involvement in NATO operations, the Ambassador remarked, European allies must do more. Security in the face of emerging threats such as [cyber warfare](#), extremist insurgencies, and [piracy](#) requires a both a broader outlook and a sense of urgency. "Today, the right lens for transatlantic relations is not so much American or European – it is global. And NATO, too, must increasingly view itself not only from a transatlantic perspective, but a global perspective," Ambassador Daalder said. "Our task as a community, bound by shared interests and a strong commitment to the principles of democracy, is to help our nations, our Alliance, and our wider world address the serious – and often distant dangers – that threaten us all."

the [NATO Strategic Concept](#), last updated at the Washington Summit in 1999. The [Strategic Concept Conference](#) attendees included IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation General James Mattis, Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Henri Bentégeat, and former U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright who delivered the [keynote address](#).

As the Alliance's authoritative document on NATO's goals, political and military strategies, and role in the global security environment, the Strategic Concept effectively serves as the basis for NATO operations and consultation. The review process, which brings together prominent thinkers and the public at large, is intended to open for discussion the topic of NATO's future role – a priority that U.S. Ambassador to NATO [Ivo Daalder](#) has identified as fundamental to confronting contemporary global threats.

NATO in the 21<sup>st</sup> century faces a more globalized international community, faster communication, and the perspective of a post-Cold War generation whose view of NATO will be tempered by its adaptation to the demands of an interconnected world.

- [Ambassador Daalder Speech: A Full and Urgent Agenda for NATO in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)
- [Strasbourg/Kehl Summit Declaration](#)

**Transatlantic Focus: A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter**

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