



# Observatory

NATO News & Opinion Clips

Promoting a more transparent and accountable NATO

No.31 – April 2012

**Welcome** to NATO Watch's monthly *Observatory*: the only online publication dedicated entirely to news and independent commentary on NATO policy-making and operational activities. The clips are drawn from a wide range of subscriptions, feeds and alerts covering a substantial part of the major English language newspapers and other periodicals worldwide. If you are short on time – go straight to the recommended reading, marked ♠♠

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## Shadow NATO Summit III

Washington DC

14-15 May 2012

Organised by BASIC –  
Bulletin of the Atomic  
Scientists – The Elliott  
School of International Affairs  
– NATO Watch – Strategy  
International

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## NATO Watch

conducts independent monitoring and analysis of NATO and aims to increase transparency, stimulate parliamentary engagement and broaden public awareness and participation in a progressive reform agenda within NATO. **NATO Watch website** [www.natowatch.org](http://www.natowatch.org)

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## NATO Watch Editorial:

### Preparations for military strikes on Iran

In January, NATO Watch wrote [a comment piece](#) about the prospects of NATO intervention to prevent Iran blocking the international sea lane through the Strait of Hormuz or acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

Despite reassurances that NATO would do neither, we pointed out that US, British and French warships were on patrol in the region and were there, according to a MoD statement, “to underline the unwavering international commitment to retaining rites of passage under international law”. Ivo Daalder, US Ambassador to NATO, affirmed that the waterway to the Middle East oilfields would be kept open “under every circumstance”.

NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen clearly stated his position on Iran's nuclear programme in November 2011, “Let me stress that NATO has no intention whatsoever to intervene in Iran, and NATO is not engaged as an alliance in the Iran question”. However, he declined to comment on reports, later confirmed by the Italian Defence Ministry, that [Israeli air force jets participated in a long range bombing exercise from a NATO base on Sardinia the previous month](#).

Israel has a nuclear weapons capability, but it is not a ‘recognised’ Nuclear Weapon State (NWP) under the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel vehemently opposes the acquisition of an Iranian nuclear bomb. Iran is a declared Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS) under the NPT.

In September 2011, [Turkey agreed to host an early warning radar](#) facing its border with Iran to support NATO's missile defence system (MDS) which has been justified on the need to combat a potential threat from Iranian missiles. [Iranian officials](#) claimed that such a move could only exacerbate tension in the region. Brigadier General Hajizadeh said, “We will target NATO's missile shield in Turkey and will then attack other targets.”

However, Iran has long been in dispute with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and many analysts believe that it is developing the capacity to utilise its burgeoning civil nuclear facilities in a nuclear weapons programme. Iran



has consistently denied this but has blocked full access to suspected sites by IAEA inspectors. The uncertainty is adding to proliferation fears in the region. For example, [Jean-Loup Samaan](#), the author of ‘The Day After Iran Goes Nuclear’ (published by the NATO Defense College in Rome) says that NATO will have to strengthen its defence guarantees with Middle East partners to discourage them looking for ‘alternative solutions’, including seeking to acquire their own nuclear weapons. Samaan advocates more war games, joint exercises

and even the deployment of nuclear weapons in countries party to NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative forums.

[Rasmussen](#) has tried to reassure Iran that it has no reason to be concerned about NATO's deployed MDS, arguing that it is not directed against any specific state, merely against the threat of missile attack. Iran need only be concerned about missile defence if it planned to attack a NATO territory. In addition to the X-Band radar now deployed at Kurecik in eastern Anatolia, NATO plans to announce at the Chicago Summit that forward-deployed troops will soon be protected by an ‘interim’ MDS.

Viewed from Iran's perspective, one can see why they might not be reassured by what they can see happening on the ground rather than by what they hear from inside NATO circles, even more so following the Pentagon's recent announcement of preparations for military strikes on Iran if diplomacy and sanctions fail to secure compliance in the nuclear field. [Defense Secretary Leon Panetta](#) said that such planning had been on-going for ‘a long time’, and that a unilateral strike on Iranian facilities by Israel would be less effective than one carried out by the US. Panetta had earlier told a pro-Israeli lobby that, “we do not have a policy of containment, we have a policy of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons”.

Meanwhile, [the IAEA's latest report](#) on Iran's nuclear programme is not going to be helpful in reducing tensions as too many questions remain unanswered. The inspection team led by IAEA Deputy Director Herman Nackaerts requested a visit to Parchin where it is believed that a large steel vessel installed in 2000 could be being used

for explosive testing of warhead components. Permission to inspect the site was denied. The IAEA also asked for a detailed statement about the possible military dimensions of Iran's civil nuclear programme. Any suggestions of such dual use facilities or diversion were dismissed by Iranian officials as unfounded allegations. A request to be informed about the work of a [former soviet nuclear weapons scientist](#) and his Iranian students was also rejected. Iran again declined to implement the IAEA Additional Protocol and the IAEA concluded:

*.....Iran has not fully implemented its binding obligations, as the full implementation of these obligations is needed to establish international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.*

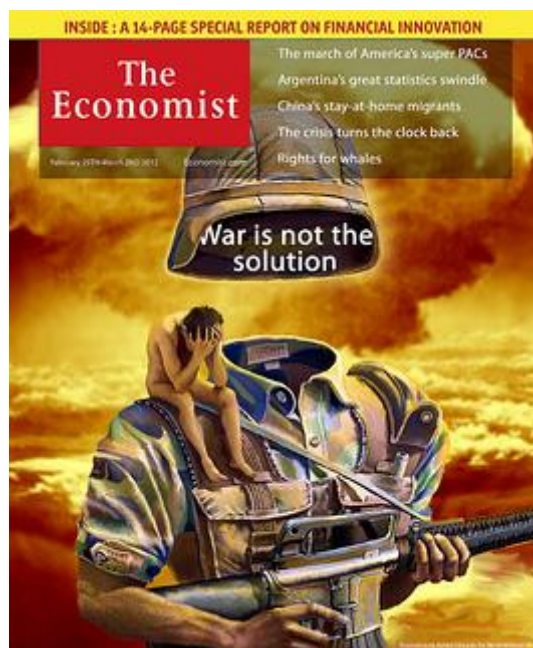
While the IAEA Board of Governors was meeting in Vienna to consider Nackaerts' report, the US Navy was been increasing its military capabilities in the Persian Gulf according to [Admiral Jonathan Greenert](#), Chief of Naval Operations. Pentagon strategists are apparently concerned that Iran may deploy fast-moving attack boats against existing and new US warships which would now be equipped with infrared surveillance equipment and short-range artillery and missiles.

While there are reports of a further effort at diplomacy in order to try and resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme and to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, those calling for direct action are becoming more outspoken and military deployments in the region proceed apace. If it comes to intervention, our final question is still germane. Will it be NATO-led or a coalition of the willing?

(Original Economist cover image (previous page) and Alternative cover image (this page) – photo credit: sarie22001/flickr – according to the photographer, “The original photo is trying to brainwash the readers by making them believe that Iran has a nuclear weapons, even though no proof has yet been provided. This case is very similar to the US war against Iraq in 2003. The alternative photo propose to have peace as a strategic solutions, not only tactical one”)

## Smart Defence? Not in Greece (or the United States)

According to recently-released European Council [data on arms licences granted by member states](#), EU countries sold Greece over €1 billion of arms at the same time as negotiating its first bail-out



back in 2010. While France was by far the biggest seller, with €871 million of aircraft, missiles and defence electronics, pro-austerity advocates the Netherlands and Germany together sold almost €90 million of mostly electronics and ground vehicles. An anonymous aide to the then Greek leader, George Papandreou, said, "No one is saying 'Buy our warships or we won't bail you out.' But the clear implication is that they will be more supportive if we do".

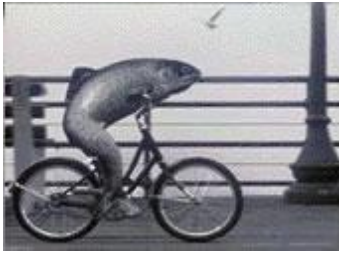
Greece remains one of the biggest defence spenders in NATO - over the past 10 years its military budget has

stood at an average of 4% of GDP, more than £900 per person. This is largely due to perceived threats from NATO ally Turkey and from illegal immigration. [Paul Hayden](#) commenting in *The Guardian* said, "One cannot help but speculate that if Greece's military spending had been reined in sooner, it would not be experiencing the dramatic crisis it is going through now".

In a [previous editorial](#) we warned about the small print in NATO's Smart Defence initiative: an attempt to buck the trend in European defence cuts by achieving 'more with less' through prioritization, specialization and cooperation. Restructuring Greece's oversized military would seem the most logical and smartest place to make such a start. In fact, as [Paul Hayden](#) points out, "if it had only spent the EU average of 1.7% over the last 20 years, it would have saved a total of 52% of its GDP – meaning instead of being completely bankrupt it would be among the more typical countries struggling with the recession".

A similar story, but on a much grander scale also applies to the United States, where [austerity liberalism and anti-government conservatism](#), have so far failed to dent a bloated Pentagon budget. According to [Lawrence Korb](#), former assistant secretary of defence in the Reagan administration and now one of the foremost proponents of deeper cuts in the US military, the 2012 defence budget is slated to shrink by "not one penny". And he rightly concludes, "It is time for DOD, the administration and Congress to stop playing games and begin to bring defence spending under control as part of our overall plan to cut the burgeoning deficit. Our security depends on it".





## An Alliance without a bicycle is like a man without a fish

What does the Father of Science Fiction,

H.G. Wells, have in common with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen? Answer: a shared love of the bicycle.

"Every time I see an adult on a bicycle", the pacifist sympathiser Wells wrote, "I no longer despair for the future of the human race". The NATO Secretary General, an avid mountain biker, also used a cycling metaphor to extol the virtues of the not-quite-so-pacific leaning Alliance in his recent [speech at the Brussels Forum](#). "The key to success on a bike", he said "is to keep it in a regular, forward movement, be it uphill or downhill, and the same goes for our transatlantic Alliance". With the wind obviously in his hair, he continued, "And another key to success on a bike is balance.... the right balance is also the key to the continued success of our NATO Alliance".

Bike riding is a skill easily learned and not easily forgotten, but as every cyclist knows, falling off is never a fun experience. The NATO Secretary General knows this only too well, having suffered a "[serious fall](#)" and fracturing his left shoulder while mountain biking in Brussels in November last year.

And as the American cyclist Lance Armstrong said, "If you worried about falling off the bike, you'd never get on". Since NATO has played "a major role in guaranteeing peace in the Euro-Atlantic area for over sixty years", we wish the Secretary General every success in his quest to rebalance the transatlantic partnership. Especially given that the consequences for a fall, could make H.G.Wells' War of the Worlds seem like a bike ride in the park.

## Book Review:

### The Transatlantic Bargain

A joint study by the National Defence University's Centre for Transatlantic Security Studies, Washington, DC, and the NATO Defence College, Rome (January 2012)

*Reviewed by Nigel Chamberlain, NATO Watch*

To its credit, the opening pages of this discussion document lay out the problems facing NATO and call for a fresh look at the

relations between the United States (and Canada) and its European Allies and partners.

Introducing the thirteen contributing authors who address specific issues in detail, we are told that NATO's image in confronting the Soviet Union, ending ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and in helping Central and Eastern Europe to re-integrate with the rest of Europe is generally positive. We are also reminded that the original ethos of the transatlantic bargain was that each side of the Atlantic divide would willingly sacrifice a bit to the other side for the benefit of the whole.

Then three broad and sometimes competing perspectives are outlined for the reader. Firstly, that post-Cold War debate on the way forward for NATO could have undone the bargain. Secondly, there were those who emphasised the commonality of interests while focusing on the need to challenge 'new threats'. Thirdly, there was the viewpoint that countries would remain within NATO as long as it served their own national interest, particularly if Europe was permitted a greater voice in decision making.

Herein lays the rub! European governments were content to maintain the solidarity line in principle while reducing defence spending and while the US continued to set the agenda and carry the bulk of expenditure burden. And worse, "European publics became more disenfranchised from a NATO that seemed divorced from their sense of their own national interest".

While NATO rhetoric followed the logic of the modernising second approach to the problem, transatlantic relations were increasingly no longer the most important organising factor in national security policy.

NATO's Strategic Concept was updated in 1991, 1999 and 2010 and each consolidated the move away from traditional military deterrence and defence to issues of crisis management, peacekeeping, security partnerships, cyber-security measures and sea-lane protection. But none of these new measures re-established the 'transatlantic bargain', apparently.

(photo credit: rockcohen/ flickr)



The call has gone out, in the politest possible terms, for Europeans to re-commit to NATO, and not just politically this time. The hardware capability gap must be bridged and burden sharing must become a reality. It's time for the Europeans to front-up and 'we' are going to be called to account in Chicago in May, it would seem, based on what Dr Karl-Heinz Kamp and

Ambassador Kurt D. Volker have to say in their 'chapeau paper'.

The following nine contributors, six American and three European authors, make their individual contributions under three broad headings, 'What has the Transatlantic Bargain Been and Evolved into Today?', 'What would a New Transatlantic Bargain Look Like?' and 'What is NATO's Role in a New Transatlantic Bargain?'. They are generally informative and sometimes insightful and will be a useful reference for those who follow developments within NATO as an academic exercise.

However, it is left to Dr Charles L. Barry to draw the disparate threads together in his Epilogue and conclude that the Transatlantic Bargain "must not

be allowed to grow weak or simply endure. It must be nurtured, exercised and strengthened". He outlines six basic commitments which he asks those gathered in Chicago in May "to make and keep in a time of austerity" in order to build on them in an improved economic climate.

Undoubtedly, the 'capability gap' and 'burden sharing' calls will run up against the 'facts' that the US pays 75% of the cost of NATO operations and that few European members meet the NATO defence spending target of 2% of GDP. This means that the 'reality gap' between current funding and agreed activities in the 2010 Strategic Concept is unlikely to be bridged.

## News, Commentary and Reports:

### Afghanistan-Pakistan:

(photo credit: Stitch/ flickr)

#### News

[Second Afghan Insurgent Group Suspends Peace Talks](#), *New York Times*, 29 March

[Western troops take steps to avoid fratricide by Afghans](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 28 March

[AP Interview: NATO military chief says Afghans soon to take lead in three-quarters of country](#), *Washington Post*, 28 March

[Support in U.S. for Afghan War Drops Sharply, Poll Finds](#), *New York Times*, 26 March

[3 NATO Soldiers Killed by Afghan Security Officers](#), *New York Times*, 26 March

[World must not abandon Afghanistan after combat mission ends, says UK ambassador](#), *The Telegraph*, 26 March - troops fighting in Afghanistan "should get out now" if the major powers are not prepared to continue backing the Afghan government after 2014, according to Britain's ambassador in Kabul

[Afghan massacre: Kandahar families given compensation](#), *BBC News*, 25 March - Afghan families who lost relatives in the Kandahar massacre have been paid compensation by the US military

[Pakistan Taliban warning over NATO supply route](#), *AFP*, 25 March – the Pakistani Taliban threatened to attack lawmakers if they voted in support of resuming supplies for NATO troops in Afghanistan

[U.S. Plans No Charges Over Deadly Strike in Pakistan](#), *New York Times*, 24 March - the US military has decided that no service members will face disciplinary charges for their involvement in a NATO airstrike in Nov 2011 that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers

[Nato to cut funding for Afghan force by two thirds](#), *The Telegraph*, 22 March - the NATO coalition aims to cut funding for the Afghan police and army by nearly two thirds as alliance members negotiate a long term deal to pay for Afghanistan's security



[US on track for Afghan deal by NATO summit- Clinton](#), *Reuters*, 21 March

[Pakistani Parliament Demands End to U.S. Drone Strikes](#), *New York Times*, 20 March

(648th MEB Delivers School Supplies, Kabul, 26 March – US soldiers bring bags of school supplies into a local school as part of Operation Outreach, a soldier-run organization that collected and put together over 400 bags of school supplies for the children of Kabul – photo credit: Georgia National Guard/ flickr)



[NATO in Afghanistan - Afghan provinces in transition: Herat and Farah, NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube](#), 19 March

[Karzai Calls on U.S. to Pull Back as Taliban Cancel Talks](#), *New York Times*, 15 March

[The price of a life? In Afghanistan, it's 133 pounds](#), *Reuters*, 14 March

[US soldier's killing spree puts Afghanistan on a knife-edge](#), *The Guardian*, 12 March - tensions increase as nine children among 16 shot dead by lone gunman in Zangabad village in Kandahar

[Statement by the NATO Secretary General on tragic incident in Kandahar Province](#), NATO News, 11 March (Afghanistan, 29 December 2011 - photo credit: ISAF media/ flickr)



[Their drill may be out of step, but Afghan army is ready for the fight](#), *The Telegraph*, 11 March - the intensive training being given to the Afghan army in preparation for withdrawal of coalition forces from the country in 2014 revealed in unprecedented detail

[Six UK soldiers killed in Afghanistan explosion](#), *BBC News*, 7 March

[Obama: 'Now is the time for us to transition' out of Afghanistan](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 6 March

[No Sign of Progress in Afghanistan Talks Embittered by Koran Burnings](#), *New York Times*, 5 March

[Afghan and US reports fail to agree on Koran burning](#), *The Independent*, 5 March

[Afghan army says Taliban infiltration very sophisticated](#), *Reuters*, 3 March

[Afghan police performance remains lacking, says report](#), *theexaminer.com*, 1 March (Afghanistan Security: Department of Defense Effort to Train Afghan Police Relies on Contractor Personnel to Fill Skill and Resource Gaps, Government Accountability Office, 23 February)

[NATO Calls for Key Role in Afghanistan After 2014](#), *Wall Street Journal*, 1 March - Rasmussen Says Alliance Should Carry On Mission After 2014, Including Troop Training

### **Commentary and Reports**

[Afghan women are being jailed for 'moral crimes', says report](#), *The Guardian*, 28 March - courts failing to protect women, many in prison for running away from home or adultery, says Human Rights Watch

Five years ago the Americans were refusing to speak to the Taliban. Now the Taliban are refusing to speak to the Americans. That is a measure of how the balance of power has shifted in Afghanistan. The western intervention there has failed. As NATO prepares to withdraw from the country in 2014, it is only the scale of the defeat that remains to be determined

[The west has lost in Afghanistan](#), Gideon Rachman, *Financial Times*, 26 March

[Talking about Talks: Toward a Political Settlement in Afghanistan](#), *Asia Report* No.221, International Crisis Group, 26 March – a major course correction is needed if talks with the Taliban are to have any chance of delivering sustainable peace in Afghanistan

[Resetting the U.S.-Pakistan relationship](#), Teresita C. Schaffer and Howard B. Schaffer, *Foreign Policy*, 19 March

[Afghanistan and the Long War](#), George Friedman, *STRATFOR*, 19 March

[NATO in Afghanistan - Challenging times for General Sher Mohammad Karimi](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 19 March

[Afghan Women's Activist Rangina Hamidi: Worsening Conditions Should Hasten U.S. Withdrawal](#), *Democracy Now*, 16 March

[Afghan Massacre Sheds Light on Culture of Mania and Aggression in U.S. Troops in Afghanistan](#), *Democracy Now*, 16 March

[Another day in Afghanistan, another setback for the coalition strategy](#), Simon Tisdall, *The Guardian*, 15 March - Obama and Cameron in Washington this week resemble a pair of undertakers discussing the most fitting way to dress a corpse

[Massacres are the inevitable result of foreign occupation](#), Seumas Milne, *The Guardian*, 13 March - the latest slaughter in Afghanistan is part of a decade of savage civilian killing: until NATO leaves, it is certain to continue



[Decisions, not excuses in Afghanistan](#), Marwan Bishara, Al Jazeera, 12 March - Spare us and the US public the apologies, the psychiatry, and more useless trials and meaningless investigations

[Afghanistan: dash for the exit](#), *The Guardian* editorial, 11 March - Barack Obama will not be judged as kindly by history in Afghanistan as he was over his withdrawal from Iraq

*The Army Times has reported that 750 service members—that's from all wars—that are still currently alive, attempt to take their lives every month at a rate of 18 every day. These numbers don't lie.... This is an epidemic within the military*

Kevin Baker, an Iraq War veteran, cited in [Behind the Afghan Massacre: Accused Soldier Suffered Brain Injury After Multiple Deployments in Iraq](#), *Democracy Now*, 14 March

*Official military statistics show that more than 115,000 soldiers have suffered mild traumatic brain injuries since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began*

[Brain Wars: How the Military Is Failing Its Wounded—](#) ProPublica's Joaquin Sapien, *Democracy Now*, 14 March

[We must clarify our aims in Afghanistan](#), *The Observer* editorial, 11 March

[A new kind of Taliban: An interview with Maulvi Qalamuddin](#), Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, *Foreign Policy*, 8 March

♣♣ [Green on Blue - Dead Americans, Dead Goats, and Half a Million Gunmen on the Loose](#), Ann Jones, *TomDispatch.com*, 8 March

[Who counts Helmand's lost children?](#) Frank Ledwidge, *The Guardian*, 8 March - it is important to honour the hundreds of British soldiers killed in Afghanistan, but appallingly, we don't even record civilian deaths

[The pressure grows for a quick Nato exit from Afghanistan](#), Richard Norton Taylor, *The Guardian*, 7 March - there is a growing realisation that nothing useful can be done by US and British troops exposed on the front line

The Roles of India and Pakistan in Afghanistan's Development and Natural Resources, NATO Civil-Military Fusion Centre, March 2012

[NATO in Afghanistan - Handing over security in Ghazni](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 6 March

♣♣ [Afghan Soldiers Keep Killing Americans Because \\_\\_\\_?](#) Matthew Nasuti, *Kabul Press*, 3 March - polling the Afghan Army is one way to begin fixing the problem

*The ambition to bring Afghanistan democracy, security and gender awareness was unjustified and has failed. Its internal government is for Afghans (and their neighbours) to ordain, and is not a feasible task for British soldiers and taxpayers.*

[In Afghanistan it's lies that are really killing our soldiers](#), Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*, 8 March

## Arab protests (and the implications for NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative):

[Nato commander hails Qatar's role in Libya](#), *Peninsula On-line*, 29 March



[NATO Could Not Handle Intervention in Syria](#), Daniel Goure, Lexington Institute, *defpro news*, 28 March

[Nato parliamentarians discuss regional security](#), *Gulf Times*, 25 March - NATO Parliamentarians from 13 member-states convened in Doha for a three-day briefing on Security and Stability in the Gulf Region organised by Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar

[NATO Secretary General Rasmussen: NATO has no intention to intervene in Syria](#), *German Marshall Fund/ You Tube*, 23 March

[Partnerships Should Be Incentivized](#), Vivien Pertusot, *Atlantic-community.org*, 20 March - NATO's leverage in the Arab world is limited, and the Arab uprisings illustrated it. Transition and reform processes will leave little room for NATO. Its only options are to better clarify its expectations, to listen more, and to cooperate with other actors to offer multifaceted cooperation packages

(Medina, Tunisia, 20 March — photo credit: Amine Ghrabi/ flickr)

[Endowing the Arab Spring Generation with the Skills to Govern](#), Geoffrey Phillip Levin, *Atlantic-community.org*, 19 March - to foster both regional stability and a positive working relationship with the young generation that initiated the Arab Spring, NATO should establish a program that trains young Arabs who desire to work in the security and public sectors

[We are letting Assad win](#), Nancy E. Soderberg, *Reuters*, 12 March

[Secretary General and Qatari Prime Minister discuss Partnership](#), NATO News, 1 March - the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen welcomed the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al-Thani at NATO Headquarters and thanked him for the key role played by Qatar in NATO's mission to protect the Libyan people in 2011. The Secretary General also thanked Qatar for the good practical cooperation and active political dialogue between NATO and Qatar

*The moment he uses these outlawed, mass destruction weapons NATO jets will come bombing his palace*

Bilal Saab, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation analysts, Chen Kane and Leonard Spector, on the likely international response to any decision by Syrian President Bashar Assad to use chemical weapons against opposition forces, [Analysts Warn of Chemical Weapons "Powder Keg" in Syria](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 March

## Chicago Summit:

[Anti-war protesters again denied permit for NATO summit march](#), *Reuters AlertNet*, 30 March

[NATO protest interest hasn't waned, police say](#), *Chicago Tribune*, 28 March

[Afghanistan, Smart Defense Lead NATO Summit Agenda](#), *Defense News*, 26 March

[US lawmakers discuss Chicago Summit agenda at DC event](#), NATO Watch News Brief, 23 March - Sen. McCain: Syria, NATO Expansion Should Be on Summit Agenda

[NATO Starts the Countdown to Chicago](#), Anders Fogh Rasmussen, *Huffington Post*, 22 March

[Opening remarks US Permanent Representative to NATO](#) - Official opening of Chicago Summit Exhibit, *NATOChannel.tv/ You Tube*, 22 March

[Mayor's office buys 8,513 more face shields for NATO summit](#), *Chicago Sun-Times*, 21 March

[Chicago rejects NATO summit march plans](#), *Chicago Sun-Times*, 19 March

[NATO protest leader Andy Thayer vows to protest political narcissism](#), *Examiner.com*, 7 March

[Protesters: We're still coming to Chicago for NATO](#), *Associated Press*, 6 March

[G-8 summit to be held at Camp David, not Chicago](#), *Chicago Tribune*, 5 March

[NATO ambassador puts summit focus on Afghanistan](#), *ABCChicago7.com*, 2 March



(Anders Fogh Rasmussen, at the opening of the exhibition celebrating the City of Chicago, NATO HQ, Brussels, 22 March – photo credit: NATO)

## Counter-Terrorism:

*The irony with modern day COIN as a military doctrine is that it is a theory either built from military failures (Algeria, Vietnam), wars where the insurgents won (China) or where the counterinsurgent uprooted an entire population (Malaya) or brutalized their way to victory under a media free zone (Sri Lanka).*

♣♣ [Romancing the COIN](#), Jason Thomas, *Small Wars Journal*, 14 March

[Keeping Terrorism in Perspective](#), Scott Stewart, *STRATFOR*, 22 March

[Ever More and Ever Less - The Unstoppable Legacy of the War on Terror](#), Karen J. Greenberg, *TomDispatch.com*, 18 March

[Countering WMD threats in the maritime environment](#), NATO News, 15 March - 2012 International Partners' Outreach Event in Riga, Latvia on 20-22 March

[NATO Working to Protect Soccer Tourney From WMD Attacks](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 12 March



## Cyber Security:

[NATO launches exercise to beef up cyber defence](#), *Bangkok Post*, 27 March

[NATO launches disturbingly relaxed-sounding 'rapid reaction' cyberwar team](#), Kevin Fogarty, *IT World*, 13 March - first priority after cyberattack is detected: gather the committee for a meeting

[NATO Rapid Reaction Team to fight cyber attack](#), NATO News, 13 March - by the end of 2012, a rapid reaction team (RRT)



capability of NATO cyber defence experts will be operational (photo credit: NATO)

[Defence groups move to cybersecurity](#), *Financial Times*, 11 March

[China suspected of Facebook attack on Nato's supreme allied](#)

[commander](#), *The Observer*, 11 March - Beijing cyber-spies accused of using fake social networking accounts in bid to steal military secrets from the west

[NATO Signs Largest Contract to Date for Cyber Defence](#), *defpro news*, 9 March - the award of the NATO Computer Incident Response Capability, Full Operational Capability contract, at approximately 58 million Euro, represents NATO's largest investment to date in cyber defence. Once implemented, it will provide security on NATO's networks and protect over 22,000 NATO military and civilian employees enhancing NATO's cyber defence infrastructure and its ability to support member states

[LulzSec not laughing as FBI chops head off the hacking group](#), Andrew Elwell, *DefenceIQ*, 6 March

[Stratfor Is a Joke and So Is Wikileaks for Taking It Seriously](#), Max Fisher, *The Atlantic*, 27 February - the corporate research firm has branded itself as a CIA-like "global intelligence" firm, but only Julian Assange and some over-paying clients are fooled

## Defence Budgets, Procurement and Private Military Companies:



*NATO Review*: [Smart Defence - the economic angle](#), March 2012 - Smart Defence is not all about the economy. But the economic crisis has certainly played its part. How does the economic landscape look now? And what effect could this have on the development of Smart Defence? NATO Review asks NATO's Senior Defence Economist for his insights (photo credit: NATO)

[Smart Defence: Can a Lean NATO Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century?](#) 28-30 March, The Chicago Club, Chicago, Illinois, US – this international conference will focus on the challenges confronting the alliance in a time of changing threats and constrained resources. Papers commissioned for this conference will be released in advance of the NATO Summit. The Chicago Council is organizing the conference with a consortium of partners from NATO members including Canada, France, Turkey, Poland, Germany and UK

[NATO: Member nations should share military systems](#), *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, 29 March

[NATO not in crisis, but 'stronger than ever' says Fogh Rasmussen](#), *PublicServiceEurope.com*, 23 March

[BT snares £39 million NATO contract](#), *ITProPortal*, 16 March

[Asia defence spending overtakes Europe](#), *Financial Times*, 7 March

[NATO and EAPC Tap 3eTI Leadership for Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Expertise](#), *Market Watch Press Release*, 5 March

[VERA-NG Passive Surveillance Available to NATO](#), *Manufacturing Digital Press Release*, 4 March

## Drones:

[U.S. missile strikes kill 4 militants in Pakistan as calls increase for drone attacks to end](#), *Washington Post*, 30 March

*It's likely that the safest place NATO can keep its secrets, even when they're protected by a military rapid-response team, will be somewhere – anywhere – other than NATO*

♠♠ Kevin Fogarty, [NATO cybersecurity is worse than it looked; a lot worse](#), *IT World*, 14 March - Fake Facebook pages targeting NATO top general are tip of a very insecure iceberg

[We Can't Drone Our Way to Victory in Afghanistan](#), Micah Zenko, *Foreign Policy*, 27 March - it's time for the United States to think of new ways to combat terrorism in Southwest Asia.

[CIA drone war in Pakistan in sharp decline](#), *CNN*, 27 March

[White House offers concessions on drone attacks](#), *Dawn.com*, 27 March - the US reportedly offered to give Pakistan advanced notice of drone strikes and implement new limits on the types of targets, in an effort to protect the program from being shut down. Pakistan rejected both concessions, further straining an already damaged bilateral relationship

*I have revenge in my heart. I just want to grab a drone by the tail and smash it into the ground.*

Noor Magul, a farmer in Pakistan who said three of his relatives were killed by a US drone strike.  
[Drones at Issue as U.S. Rebuilds Ties to Pakistan](#), *New York Times*, 18 March

## Energy Security:

[NATO's role in Energy Security](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 5 March

## Enlargement and Partnerships:

[Australia, a Key Partner in NATO's security mission](#), *NATO News*, 28 March

[Joint Press Point - NATO Secretary General Joint Press Point with the Prime Minister of Moldova](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 28 March

[Ukraine, NATO to hold security exercises during Euro 2012, says Dolhov](#), *Interfax*, 26 March

[NATO's Central Asia strategy: What next?](#) Nima Khorrami Assl, *Al Jazeera*, 27 March - advocating democracy is neither a "remedy" to Central Asia's political ills nor a sound "strategic option" for NATO

[Ukraine thanks NATO for security help at Euro 2012](#), *Kyiv Post*, 24 March

[NATO and Mongolia Agree Programme of Cooperation](#), *defpro news*, 23 March

[Prime Minister of Montenegro discusses preparations for Chicago with Allies](#), *NATO News*, 21 March - Secretary General Rasmussen met with Prime Minister Igor Lukšić of Montenegro and discussed the growing cooperation between NATO and Montenegro and reform efforts in his country – [joint press point](#)

[NATO enlargement or encirclement of Russia?](#) *NATO Watch News Brief*, 20 March

[James Appathurai on the NATO Mission](#), *Atlantic-community.org*, 16 March - Why doesn't NATO have a good slogan? The NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy answers this and more, including post-Cold War relevance and the strength of the Article 5 guarantee

[NATO's top commander says Montenegro militarily ready to join alliance](#), *Washington Post*, 14 March

[NATO frets over jailed former Ukrainian officials](#), *Russia Today*, 13 March

[Lugar Introduces NATO Enlargement Bill](#), *Estonian World Review*, 10 March

[NATO Envoy: Georgia Getting Closer to NATO](#), *Civil Georgia*, 9 March

[NATO-Georgia Commission Meeting](#), *Civil Georgia*, 8 March

["NATO Corner" opens in the Anna Lindh Library Stockholm](#), *NATO News*, 8 March - a new depository library for NATO publications has opened in the Anna Lindh Library in Stockholm, Sweden. The "NATO Corner" is the result of an initiative by the Swedish Defence College and the Anna Lindh Library, in collaboration with the NATO Multimedia Library in Brussels, Belgium. It is the only NATO depository library in the nordic region and the first of its kind to be set up in a western partner country of NATO

[Armenia, NATO Reaffirm Plans For 'Deeper Partnership'](#), *Armenialiberty.org*, 6 March

## Exercises:

**Cold Response 2012 (12-21 March)** (Cold Response 2009, Norway – photo credit: soldatnyt/flickr)

[Military Capabilities In The Arctic](#), Siemon T. Wezeman, *SIPRI Background Paper*, March 2012

[HMS Illustrious holed... by tiny tugboat: Aircraft carrier sails home for repairs after smash in Arctic Circle](#), *Daily Mail*, 17 March



[Canada-Denmark wrap up Greenland military exercise](#), *NunatsiaqOnline*, 17 March

[NATO holds naval games in the Arctic](#), *Voice of Russia*, 12 March

[NATO tests its forces in Arctic](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 9 February – 16,000 people as well as fighting ships and aviation from Denmark, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, France, Sweden, UK and the US are to take part

[NATO Exercise 'Cold Response 2012': A Crisis Response Operation or a Provocation to Russia?](#) *NATO Watch News Brief*, 5 March

### ***Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE) XI (27-28 March)***

[A Spartan, Phantoms, Gripen and Hornets Train Together](#), *ACO News*, 21 March

## **Gender:**

[NATO conference discusses women, peace and security in the Middle East and North Africa](#), *NATO News*, 30 March - leading NATO officials and female representatives from Tunisia, Jordan, Libya, Yemen, Morocco and Rwanda discussed progress made in promoting the role of women in peace and security at a conference from 28-29 March

[NATO Secretary General discusses women, peace and security with influential female activists from the Middle East and North Africa](#), *NATO News*, 29 March - The NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen met with Nobel Peace Prize winner Mrs Tawakkol Karman, from Yemen, and peace activist Ms Hibaaq Osman, from Somalia, in the margins of a NATO-sponsored conference on women, peace and security (NATO Secretary General meets with the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2011, Tawakul Karman – photo credit: NATO))



[NATO in Afghanistan - Afghan Women on Night Operations](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 15 March - freshly graduated, an all-female, all-Afghan cultural support team is ready to accompany Afghan and ISAF forces on night-time searches, to make sure women and children are looked after with respect for Afghan traditions

[WE-NATO - First live web chat on International Women's Day 2012](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 9 March

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 'Safeguarding Women's Rights', 8 March

[NATO in Afghanistan - Kandahar's female police squad](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 7 March

[Women's rights: making progress in Afghanistan](#), *NATO News*, 7 March - prior to International Women's day, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy Ambassador Kolinda Grabar held an exchange of views with Afghan women from the National Assembly, the Afghan National Army, and the media

### **NATO Internship program: NATO internships open doors for future peace and security professionals**

Have you ever wanted to know how the Alliance works from the inside? On 26 March, NATO began taking internship applications for 2013. Young graduates and research students from a wide range of academic disciplines are invited to apply by 30 April 2012

To apply or learn more, visit the NATO Internship Programme page ([www.nato.int/internships](http://www.nato.int/internships)).



## **Iran:**

[The 0% Doctrine - Obama Breaks New Ground When It Comes to War With Iran](#), *TomDispatch.com*, 11 March

[Panetta: Pentagon Planning for Potential Iran Strikes](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 March

## **Kosovo:**

["NATO's military intervention paved way for separatism"](#), *B92*, 23 March - a gathering dedicated to the 13th anniversary of the start of NATO aerial war against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was held in Belgrade



## Libya:

[Statement by the NATO Spokesperson on lives lost at sea](#), NATO News, 29 March - the loss of life on a migrant boat in the Mediterranean in late March last year was a very tragic incident. To help determine what happened, NATO provided a significant amount of information to the Council of Europe:

- [Letter](#) from NATO to the Council of Europe dated 8 February 2012

*it is an indictment of the thoughtlessness, the lack of foresight and the hubris with which we in NATO launched our effort to force a regime change in Libya while pretending it was motivated by that will-o'-the-wisp, R2P*

♠♠ [Mali feels the effects of NATO's Libya mission](#), Robert Fowler, *Ottawa Citizen*, 24 March – the author writes that the Mali coup may have been, in part, an unintended consequence of last year's NATO Libya mission

- [Letter](#) from NATO to the Council of Europe dated 27 March 2012

[Migrant boat disaster: Spain challenges Nato over distress call claim](#), *The Guardian*, 29 March

- Spanish government says existence of message must be proved as pressure mounts on NATO over fateful voyage

[Migrant boat disaster: those responsible 'could face legal action'](#), *The Guardian*, 29 March - Council of Europe investigator issues warning to those who ignored boat full of African refugees adrift in the Mediterranean

[Nato 'failed to aid' Libyan migrant boat - Council of Europe report](#), *BBC News*, 29 March - a report into the deaths of 63 Libyan refugees on a small boat last May said a "catalogue of errors" by coastguards and NATO meant they were never rescued

*The refusal by NATO to fully investigate and disclose what happened in Majer and other places where there are credible claims of civilian casualties means that the alliance won't be able to learn from such tragedies. It has cast a pall on a campaign fought for the right reasons*

♠♠ [New York Times Editorial, NATO's Duty](#), 29 March

[Migrants left to die after catalogue of failures, says report into boat tragedy](#), *The Guardian*, 28 March - Council of Europe investigator says deaths of migrants adrift in Mediterranean exposes double standards in valuing human life

[How a migrant boat was left adrift on the Mediterranean](#), *The Guardian*, 28 March - they were told they would reach Lampedusa within 18 hours. It was 15 days before the survivors touched land again

[NATO: Clarify Response to Deaths at Sea](#), *Reuters AlertNet*, 26 March - NATO and its member states should provide information to help clarify the chain of events that led to the death of 63 boat migrants in the Mediterranean a year ago, a coalition of human rights groups said in joint letters to NATO and member states

[The Human Rights Council's report on civilian casualties in Libya](#), *NATO Watch Briefing Paper No.21*, 21 March

♠♠ [Leading by example: The UN Human Rights Council's report on casualties in Libya](#), Every Casualty Programme, 20 March

[NATO must pay for errors in Libya – Amnesty](#), *Independent Online*, 20 March

['Libya in dead-end as NATO washes hands of civilian blood'](#), *Russia Today*, 20 March

[Nato must investigate civilian deaths in Libya, says Amnesty](#), *The Guardian*, 19 March - campaigners say scores of Libyans were killed or injured in air strikes but Nato has not provided compensation

[U.N. sanctions panel investigates reports of French/Qatari arms transfers to Libya's rebels](#), Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy*, 15 March

[UN leader backs NATO over Libya air strike](#), *Herald Sun*, 14 March

[Russia calls for probe into NATO's bombings in Libya](#), *China Daily*, 13 March

[NATO's Libyan Lessons](#), John D. Podesta and Ken Gude, Project Syndicate, 12 March

[Russia criticises UN over NATO role in Libya](#), *Reuters AlertNet*, 9 March

[Russia demands NATO apology over Libya bombing and accuses Libya of training Syrian rebels](#), *Washington Post*, 7 March

[Nato chief rebuts Libya mission concerns](#), *Financial Times*, 5 March

[U.N. Faults NATO and Libyan Authorities in Report](#), *New York Times*, 2 March - NATO has not sufficiently investigated the air raids it conducted on Libya that killed at least 60 civilians and wounded 55 more during the conflict there, according to [a new United Nations report](#)



## Maritime Security and Piracy:

[Drastic action needed to prevent more migrants dying in boat tragedies](#), *The Guardian*, 28 March -heightened risk of tragic deaths at sea as warm weather could see thousands attempting to cross over to Europe, experts warn

[NATO's Counter Piracy Mission Extended](#), *defpro news*, 20 March

[Nato extends anti-piracy mission](#), *Independent Online*, 20 March

[Spanish Frigate joins NATO Group for Operation Active Endeavour Surge Operations](#), *ACO News*, 19 March

[NATO's Counter Piracy Mission Extended](#), *NATO News*, 19 March - NATO Allies agreed on 19 March to extend the Alliance's counter piracy naval operation Ocean Shield, which operates off the Horn of Africa to protect merchant traffic from pirate attacks, for a further two years until the end of 2014 (photo credit: NATO)

[Why should one 'pay' and 'draw attention' to specialization, in countering emerging threats such as international piracy?](#) Marios Efthymiopoulos, *We-NATO.org* (blog), 16 March,

**Missile Defence:** (A US Standard Missile 3 interceptor, shown during a 2006 trial launch. Moscow and Washington are unlikely at the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago to resolve a long-running dispute involving US plans to field SM-3 interceptors around Europe – photo credit: US Missile Defense Agency)

[House Speaker Questions Obama Over Antimissile Negotiations Comments](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 29 March

[U.S. Needs Flexible Defense to Meet Evolving Missile Threats, Pentagon Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 28 March

[GOP Senators Question Obama on Missile Defense Remarks to Medvedev](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 28 March

[Russia Invites NATO Chief to Missile Defense Conference](#), *RIA Novosti*, 28 March

[U.S. seeks missile-defense shields for Asia, Mideast](#), *Reuters*, 27 March

[Obama Says He Will Have "More Flexibility" on Missile Defense After Election](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 26 March

[NATO Tells Russia Not to 'Waste Money' on Anti-Shield Deployment](#), *RIA Novosti*, 26 March

[Obama asks Russia for 'space' on missiles](#), *Financial Times*, 26 March

[Senators Push to Zero MEADS Funding](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 23 March



*This should be fixed, but in a document, rather than friendly talks with a cup of tea or a glass of wine.*

Dmitry Medvedev, Russian President, demanding a formal written guarantee that US missile interceptors planned for deployment in Europe will not be aimed at Russian strategic nuclear forces, [Medvedev Demands Antimissile Guarantee be Provided in Writing](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 23 March

[Deal between Russia, NATO on missile defense still possible: Medvedev](#), *Xinhua*, 23 March

[Obama Neglecting Homeland Missile Defense, Lawmaker Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 21 March

[A Trial Marriage on Missile Defense](#), Steven Pifer, *Moscow Times*, 20 March

[Medvedev: Military to counter US missile shield](#), *Associated Press*, 20 March

[U.S. to Maintain Talks With Russia on Missile Shield Guarantees](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 19 March

[Russia Renews Threat of Military Measures if Antimissile Deal Not Reached](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 15 March

[U.S. Considering Antimissile Data Transfer to Russia, Pentagon Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 March

[U.S. Cuts THAAD Acquisition Plans](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 13 March

[Senior Russian Official Says Antimissile Agreement Unlikely For NATO Summit](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 13 March

[Enhancing NATO's Missile Defence](#), *NATO News*, 13 March - the proliferation of ballistic missiles poses an increasing threat to Allied populations, territory and deployed forces. This is the reason why the Netherlands decided to contribute to NATO's Missile Defence system (photo credit: NATO)



[Eagle meets Bear: US-Russia missile defence](#)

[collaboration?](#) Richard de Silva, *DefenceIQ.com*, 12 March - Integrated ballistic missile cooperation between the United States and Russia is edging closer, according to a Congressional address on the sharing of defence data between the nations

[Clinton Reaffirms U.S. Hope For Antimissile Accord With Russia](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 March

[NATO Hopes Putin Will Maintain Efforts to Reach Missile Defense Deal](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 6 March

## NATO-Russia Relations:

[The Not-So-Evil Empire](#), Scott Clement, *Foreign Policy*, 28 March - Is Russia still America's bogeyman?

[NATO and Russia seek to strengthen cooperation to counter piracy](#), *NATO News*, 27 March - NATO and Russia agree that countering piracy is a common security challenge and have agreed to explore ways to strengthen cooperation in this area under the NATO-Russia Council Work Programme for 2012. Building on limited military tactical cooperation off the Horn of Africa, they are seeking to strengthen information exchange and coordination and considering possible mutual support, such as refuelling and medical assistance, for ships involved in counter-piracy operations

[NATO forces to exit Afghanistan via Russia and the Baltic?](#) *NATO Watch Briefing Paper No.22*, 28 March

[NATO to come to Ulyanovsk](#), *Russia and India Report*, 28 March

['No NATO infrastructure or troops in Russia'](#), *Russia Today*, 23 March

[Russia, NATO should overcome instinct of mutual mistrust – Medvedev](#), *Russia Today*, 23 March

[NATO chief says Russian President Vladimir Putin unlikely to attend summit in Chicago](#), *Washington Post*, 21 March

[Ulyanovsk Residents Protest NATO Transit Base Plan](#), *RIA Novosti*, 19 March



(Putin is coming, Queensway, London, 4 March 2012 – photo credit: yurri/ flickr)

[Russian-NATO Cooperation On Afghanistan Rankles Some Russians](#), *EurasiaNet*, 15 March

[Lavrov Backs NATO Using Ulyanovsk Base](#), *Moscow Times*, 15 March

[EU and NATO are Europe's straightjacket](#), Olivia Kroth, *Pravda*, 15 March

[Russia may let US and its NATO allies use Russian base for Afghan transit under new deal](#), *Washington Post*, 14 March

[Moscow Keeps a Wary Eye on Obama's New Defense Strategy](#), Valery Konyshchev and Alexander Sergunin, *Atlantic-community.org*, 14 March - Russia welcomes some aspects of the new US defence strategy, such as departing from the doctrine of being able to fight two major wars simultaneously and spending less on nuclear weapons. However, Moscow still has concerns about the new strategy when it comes to such diverse areas as the Arctic region, Iran, missile defence, and cyber warfare

[Rogozin Responds to Fears of 'NATO Base' in Russia](#), *RIA Novosti*, 13 March

[NATO chief and Russia's president-elect Vladimir Putin to meet in effort to boost ties](#), *Washington Post*, 8 March



[NATO Secretary General speaks to Russian President-elect](#), NATO News, 8 March

[Russian Elections: US and Europe Must Rethink the 'Reset'](#), Kurt Volker, *New Atlanticist*, 5 March

## Nuclear Weapons:

(photo credit: hellothomas/flickr)

[Open secret](#), Francesco Calogero and Giorgio La Malfa, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 19 March 2012 - article highlights:

- With the end of the Cold War, the military justification for tactical weapons in Europe has disappeared -- as has the need for a neither-confirm-nor-deny secrecy policy on the details of these weapons.



*I believe the United States has a unique responsibility to act -- indeed, we have a moral obligation. I say this as president of the only nation ever to use nuclear weapons. I say it as a commander in chief who knows that our nuclear codes are never far from my side. Most of all, I say it as a father, who wants my two young daughters to grow up in a world where everything they know and love can't be instantly wiped out.*

US President Barack Obama, calling for the United States and Russia to pursue new reductions to their respective nuclear arsenals, [Obama Seeks Additional Nuke Cuts With Russia](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 26 March

- Presumably, if the

United States were to remove its tactical weapons from Europe, Russia would move in the same direction. But, today, some NATO host countries of US tactical nuclear weapons are eager to see their withdrawal, while others are emphatic that they stay both for security and symbolic purposes.

- If NATO were to state in the upcoming Defence and Deterrence Posture Review the exact numbers and locations of its tactical nuclear weapons, a more open, frank, and democratic discussion would unfold on the relevance of these deployments. It would also be a gesture of sincerity toward NATO's nonproliferation goals.

♠♠ [Germany pushes for changes in NATO's nuclear posture](#), Oliver Meier, *Arms Control Now: The Blog of the Arms Control Association*, 14 March

[NATO, the Chicago Summit and Nuclear Weapons](#), Steven Pifer, *Brookings Institution*, 5 March

## Reform:

[What happens to NATO after Afghanistan?](#) David Bosco, *Foreign Policy*, 13 March

[Sharing Values and Saving Money Through Citizen Ownership](#), Megan Ann Reiss, *Atlantic-community.org*, 1 March - through developing a strategic advertising campaign, NATO can instil ownership among its citizens and assure a strong future for the alliance. NATO must remind them of their shared values, advocate for diplomatic influence in decision making, and highlight the economic value of the organization

[NATO Academies: Learning Together, Training Together, Feeling Together](#), Stephanie Theresa Baulig, *Atlantic-community.org*, 29 February - in order to promote NATO values there should be a mandatory experience for all soldiers in a NATO academy, including language programs to foster understanding. If we start this now among the next generation of military leaders, we can begin building our common identity today

[By the Numbers: How Quantifying State Action Can Lead to a Better NATO](#), Andrew Barr, *Atlantic-community.org*, 27 February - Quantifying state involvement in NATO through the establishment of a "points system" is a necessary step towards quelling the discord from ambiguities in measuring participation. In addition, military, civilian and academic exchanges will augment a sense of community within NATO

## Responsibility to Protect (R2P):

[Don't Allow Libya to Define R2P](#), Lloyd Axworthy, *Global Brief*, 15 March

[How to End Mass Atrocities](#), Alex De Waal, *New York Times*, 9 March; [In Defense of 'R2P'](#), Gareth Evans, *New York Times*, 11 March

[NATO behaving like a law unto itself](#), M. D. Nalapat, *China Daily*, 7 March

[Operationalizing the Responsibility to Protect: Building Trust and Capacities for the Third Pillar Approach](#), Policy Brief, February 2012 - This policy brief is designed to inform a workshop being organized by the Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation, Global Action to Prevent War, the Global Governance Institute

and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect on 26 April 2012 (see 'Upcoming Events' below). The workshop will be an opportunity to bring together policy-makers from the UN and regional organizations and scholars to debate the challenges posed by pillar three of the R2P principle ahead of this summer's UN General Assembly informal dialogue on the third pillar toolbox. The policy brief offers recommendations to the General Assembly on how to improve the effectiveness, legitimacy and coherence of the third pillar approach. It also offers analysis on the importance of building trust and capacities if "timely and decisive" responses are to be flexible, adaptable and comprehensive

**Special Forces:** (Italian navy Operational Raider Group, Gulf of La Spezia, Italy, 15 March 2012 – photo credit: An honourable German/ flickr)

[Secret Armies: An Exclusive Look At 10 Secret U.S. Forces](#), *BuzzFeed*, 14 March

Special Ops Forces Create "Visible And Dramatic Effects", *Secrecy News*, FAS Project on Government Secrecy, Volume 2012, Issue No. 21, 7 March - US special operations forces are engaged in "more than 100 countries worldwide," said Adm. William H. McRaven, commander of US Special Operations Command (SOCOM), in [testimony](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee

[Counter-terrorism: US special forces stationed in India, reveals Pentagon](#), *The Times of India*, 2 March



## Transatlantic Cooperation:

NATO Secretary General - "NATO 2020: Shared leadership for a shared future", [Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the Brussels Forum, *You Tube*, 26 March

[EU defense ministers endorse pooling of resources](#), *Bloomberg Business Week*, 22 March

[Nato commander: EU could not do Libya without US](#), *EUObserver.com*, 20 March

[Cameron And Obama Must Shore Up NATO For Age of Austerity](#), Stephen Flanagan, *AoL Defense*, 13 March



## Transparency and Accountability:

[WE-NATO: Mitchell Baker and the Power of Soft Power](#), *You Tube*, 29 March

♣♣ [NATO's Secrecy Stance](#), C. J. Chivers, *New York Times*, 24 March

♣♣ [One NATO: Strengthening Unity through Transparency and Engagement](#), *Atlantic-*

*community.org*, 14 March - to encourage ownership and identification among its Member states and their publics, NATO should become more transparent and support stronger engagement between citizens. It can accomplish this by better defining Member contributions, making its internal processes more open, and initiating participatory programs like military exchanges and a cyber awareness campaign

Welcome to WE-NATO, NATO News, 5 March - NATO launches a new and innovative web platform tool called "WE-NATO"

[NATO launches new online communication tool in the run up to Chicago](#), NATO News, 5 March - NATO launches a new interactive web platform called WE-NATO

[NATO and Corporate Social Responsibility](#), Costinel Anuta, *Atlantic-community.org*, 2 March - communication with the allied publics is no longer enough. A shift toward communion is needed, and communion is firstly about involvement. Therefore, by adopting and implementing a concept like the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), NATO could turn "they" into "we".

♣♣ [NATO's Public Diplomacy Overload](#), Daryl Morini, *Atlantic-community.org*, 28 February - today's NATO suffers from a public diplomacy overload rather than an image problem. Far from being a panacea to its democratic deficit, the dominant influence of public diplomacy strategies and their advocates on Allied decision-making is arguably part of the problem

## Upcoming Events:

(photo credit: ex.libris/flickr)

[ASIS 11th European Security Conference & Exhibition](#), London, 15-17 April - Adrian Kendry, Head of Defence and Security Economics, at NATO HQ will be the opening keynote speaker



### [Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#), 17 April

April – this second annual Global Day of Action on Military Spending is being organised to coincide with the release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) new annual figures on world military expenditures. On this day, people on all continents will join

together in joint actions to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities

[NATO Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministerial meetings](#), Brussels, 18-19 April

[Operationalising the Responsibility to Protect: The Civilian and Military Challenges of the "Third Pillar" Approach](#), Brussels, 26 April – one-day workshop organised by the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation, Global Action to Prevent War, the Global Governance Institute, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect and the Center for the Study of Genocide at Rutgers University. The workshop will bring together policy-makers from the EU, UN and regional organisations and scholars to debate the civilian and military challenges posed by "pillar three" of the RtoP principle

**Shadow NATO Summit**, Washington DC, 14-15 May - Organised by BASIC, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, The Elliott School of International Affairs, NATO Watch and Strategy International, this two-day conference will draw together officials, NGOs, activists, students and other representatives of civil society to discuss the big themes around transatlantic security and the future of NATO. Please contact [NATO Watch](#) for further details

[Young Atlanticist Summit](#), 18-21 May, Chicago, US - organised by the Chicago Council in partnership with The Atlantic Council, will include 50-75 young leaders, between 26-35 years of age, recruited from all NATO countries and some partner countries. The Young Atlanticist Summit will connect emerging leaders from North America, Europe, and other relevant regions with one another and with today's Alliance leaders. The application form, as well as participant qualifications and detailed information on the NATO Working Group and the 2012 Young Atlanticist Summits, can be found at [www.youngatlanticist.org](http://www.youngatlanticist.org)



### **NATO Chicago Summit: 20-21 May 2012**

[The Chicago Council Plans Suite of Activities Around G8 and NATO Summits](#), Chicago Council on Global Affairs – includes two public program speaker series:

- *"In Jeopardy? Europe and the Transatlantic Alliance"* focuses on the future of the transatlantic alliance, global economic issues, and conflict and security strategies in multiple arenas. Confirmed speakers include: former Ambassador to NATO R. Nicholas Burns (March 28), Financial Times columnist Martin Wolf (April 23), and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (May 2).
- *"On the Summits: Perspectives from Global Leaders"* gives Chicagoans an opportunity to hear from visiting leaders. Confirmed speakers include: U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO Ivo Daadler (March 1), British Ambassador to the U.S. Sir Peter Westmacott (March 21), Supreme Allied Commander Admiral James G. Stavridis, and President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus (May 22).

[After Chicago: Re-evaluating NATO's priorities](#), International conference chaired by SDA co-presidents Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Javier Solana, Brussels, 25 May

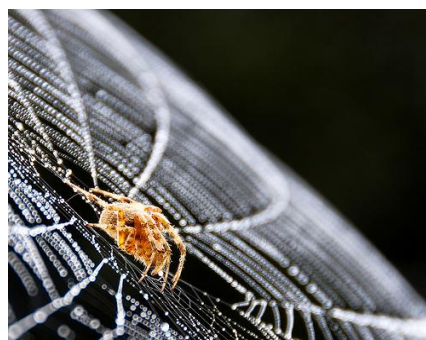
[NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session](#), Tallin, 25-28 May 2012

## Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: darkmatter/flickr)

### **Canada**

[Ambassador to Libya back in Canada amid controversy](#), *CBC News*, 21 March





[Canadian Imports of Russian HEU Criticized](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 21 March

[Canada bails out of NATO air surveillance](#), *Victoria Times Colonist*, 18 March

[Canadian training mission meant to free up U.S. soldiers for Afghan combat: documents](#), *Vancouver Sun*, 14 March

## Estonia

[Estonians held on allegations of spying for Russia](#), *Associated Press*, 22 February

## France

*We are halfway between the lunatic and the terrorist. There is often a thin line between petty crime and Al Qaeda.*

Éric Denece, a French intelligence expert, on Mohammed Merah, the 23-year-old suspect in the killing of seven people, [Suspect in France Shootings Seen as Homegrown Militant](#), *New York Times*, 21 March

## Germany

Answer of the Federal Government to the Major Interpellation submitted by the Members of the Bundestag Uta Zapf, Dr h.c. Gernot Erler, Petra Ernstberger, Iris Gleicke, Ute Kumpf, Thomas Oppermann, Dr Rolf Mützenich, Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the SPD parliamentary group, Bundestag printed paper no.: 17/7226 of 28.09.2011 - [Further developing German nuclear disarmament policy – strengthening and developing Germany's role in non-proliferation](#)

[Germany to Contribute \\$26.1M for Eliminating Russian Chemical Arms](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 March

[The State of the World: Germany's Strategy](#), George

Friedman, *STRATFOR*, 12 March

[Lessons learned from Afghanistan - a German perspective](#), LtGen (ret) Ulf von Krause, World Security Network, 7 March

## Greece

[Greece's austerity doesn't extend to its arms budget](#), *Paul Haydon*, *The Guardian*, 21 March – Greece continues to spend the most on arms in the EU as a percentage of GDP, while its people suffer economic hardship

[EU figures show crisis-busting arms sales to Greece](#), *EUObserver.com*, 7 March

[Is Greece a Failed State?](#) Nick Malkoutzis, *Foreign Policy*, 1 March

## Netherlands

[Netherlands Could Halt Release of Bird Flu Data](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 13 March -

## Poland

[Polish Ex-Official Charged With Aiding C.I.A.](#), *New York Times*, 27 March

[Polish Nuclear Dreams Threaten Ties with Germany](#), *Der Spiegel*, 13 March

[Poland pledges post-2014 support for Afghanistan](#), *AFP*, 6 March

## Turkey

[Turks favor nukes if Iran have them too, reveals poll](#), *Al Arabiya News*, 28 March

[Debate over Afghan presence should not dissuade Turkey from commitment to NATO](#), Cenk Sidar, *Hurriyet Daily News*, 22 March

[Our security and NATO](#), Suat Kiniklioğlu, *Today's Zaman*, 22 March

[OSCE media freedom representative welcomes release of Turkish journalists](#), OSCE Press Release, 12 March

[CHP deputies protest Kürecik's NATO radar](#), *Today's Zaman*, 11 March

[Turkish opposition MPs protest NATO radar](#), *World Bulletin*, 11 March (photo credit AA)



[Young professionals in foreign policy debate with NATO](#), NATO News, 7 March - as part of its engagement with young people, NATO partnered with the Brussels branch of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) to discuss Turkey's 60 years in the Alliance

[Turkey-Israel row a new headache for NATO?](#) Ümit Enginsoy, *Hurriyet Daily News*, 5 March

## United Kingdom

[U.K. Plans \\$558M Update to Ballistic Missile Sub](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 26 March

♠♠ [Study counts cost of Trident](#), *Financial Times*, 21 March - Britain would save almost £84bn over the next 50 years if it were to abandon plans to replace the submarines that launch its independent nuclear deterrent, according to a [study](#) of the capability; also see: [Scrapping save £83.5bn](#), Richard March - savings could be spread over years until 2062 and jobs created on other defence projects, study finds

[UK fighter choice risks French entente](#), *Financial Times*, 20 March

[Government plans U-turn on aircraft carriers as catapult costs spiral](#), *The Guardian*, 18 March - defence secretary wants to switch back to version of Joint Strike Fighter ministers dismissed as more costly and less effective

[Cost fears cause MoD rethink on fighter jets](#), *Financial Times*, 12 March

[Looking North: Britain's revitalised interest in the northern areas of Europe](#), Duncan Depledge, *RUSI Analysis*, 9 March - a recent defence Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Norway underscores renewed British strategic interest in the

Arctic region

[United Kingdom Urged to Drop Ballistic Missile Sub Replacement Plan](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 6 March; see ♠♠ [Dropping the bomb: a post Trident future](#), Toby Fenwick, Centre Forum, March 2012

[The strategic utility of the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers](#), James Bosbotinis, *DefenceIQ*, 1 March

[Menwith Hill eavesdropping base undergoes massive expansion](#), *The Guardian*, 1 March - study says controversial North Yorkshire base is becoming increasingly important for US intelligence and military operations

## United States

[Arab spring brings steep rise in US attacks in Yemen](#), *Bureau of Investigative Journalism*, 29 March

[Trained in the U.S.A.](#), Joshua Keating, *Foreign Policy* - the United States has a long history of inadvertently (and sometimes not so inadvertently) training future coup plotters around the world

[Throwing Money at the Pentagon - A Lesson in Republican Math](#), William D. Hartung, *TomDispatch.com*, 20 March

*We call on the Government to reflect deeply on the long term implications of the geographical and functional shifts in US policy that are now taking place. It raises fundamental questions if our pre-eminent defence and security relationship is with an ally who has interests which are increasingly divergent from our own. The Government needs to decide if the UK will continue to be as involved in US military action as we have been in the past if the US focuses on Asia-Pacific. If the US is moving towards viewing Europe as a producer rather than a consumer of security, and reducing its capability to mount long term stabilisation missions, it raises more questions as to what we can expect from the US and what the US expects from the UK (para 60).*

House of Lords and House of Commons, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, [First review of the National Security Strategy 2010](#), HL Paper 265; HC 1384, 8 March



*the London Olympics will host the biggest mobilisation of military and security forces seen in the UK since the second world war. More troops – around 13,500 – will be deployed than are currently at war in Afghanistan. The growing security force is being estimated at anything between 24,000 and 49,000 in total. Such is the secrecy that no one seems to know for sure*

[Olympics 2012 security: welcome to lockdown London](#), *The Guardian*, 12 March

(Certain Journeys will be affected during the Games - Tube Poster – photo credit: Annie Mole/ flickr)

[U.S. Navy Brass: No Technical Fixes to Avoid Ambiguous Missile Launches](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 16 March



[Congressional Oversight of Intelligence: Current Structure and Alternatives](#), L. Elaine Halchin and Frederick M. Kaiser, Congressional Research Service, 14 March

[Attorney General Eric Holder Defends Legality of Targeted Killings of U.S. Citizens Overseas](#), *Democracy Now*, 6 March

(US Air Force General Atomics MQ-1 Predator UAV-mounted Hellfire missile – photo credit: james\_gordon\_los\_angeles/ flickr)

[Obama's Kill Doctrine](#), Jonathan Turley, *Foreign Policy*, 6 March - Trust us, Attorney General Eric Holder says -- we'll only assassinate Americans after administrative "due process." That's not how the Constitution works, buddy

*[O]ver the past two years, Defense Department officials... bragged about all the cuts they were making and the risks the country was already taking with those reductions. So by how much did the FY 2012 defense budget -- which the president signed on New Year's Eve -- shrink? The answer: not one penny.*

[Time to rein in defense budget](#), Lawrence Korb, *Politico*, 7 March

[US to outline legal backing for 'targeted kill' programme](#), *The Guardian*, 5 March - speech by attorney general to address use of lethal force against Americans overseas who are suspected of plotting terrorist attacks

[How to Fund an American Police State - Real Money for an Imaginary War](#), Stephan Salisbury, *TomDispatch.com*, 4 March

*Anyone willing to trust President Obama with the power to secretly declare an American citizen an enemy of the state and order his extrajudicial killing should ask whether they would be willing to trust the next president with that dangerous power*

Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU's National Security Project, [Holder: U.S. can lawfully target American citizens](#), *Washington Post*, 5 March

(Palo Alto, Stanford University 105 Museum of Art, Robert Arneson - Assassination of a Famous Nut Artist – photo credit: Bv Allie Caulfield/ flickr)



[The United States of Fear: Six Questions for Tom Engelhardt](#), *Harpers Magazine*, 2 March

## IDEAS, FEEDBACK, SUGGESTIONS?

**Ideas, feedback, suggestions?** We want to hear from you. Please contact us at [NATO Watch](#) with any news and stories for the *Observatory*, as well as feedback or suggestions.

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