

CHICAGO SUMMIT SPECIAL

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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Chicago Summit Sketch:

Sec Rasmussen's Lonely Hearts Club Band

By Nowhere Man for NATO Watch

The Chicago Summit was a bit of a damp squib. [The protests took place largely without incident](#) as did the Summit itself. The deployment of tear gas and other crowd control weapons had been widely anticipated, but in the event did not become necessary since all the Heads of State and government representatives fell into line behind President Obama and Secretary General Rasmussen's pre-cooked agenda.

The Summit could have turned ugly over France's "not negotiable" plans to pull its combat troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2012. The withdrawal of French fries from the working dinner menus had been threatened, but the 24th President of the *République française* and a Socialist to boot (but with a name designed to suggest to some Americans that he comes from a neighbouring European country) managed to win over his NATO counterparts. He did this partly by promising not to pull France out of the Afghanistan mission altogether and partly by agreeing to say nice things about the food in Chicago.

Hence, the only clanging sound was of multiple cans being kicked down the road. Afghanistan was the headline act, but failed to rouse much beyond a reassertion of existing financial and military commitments amongst the member nations, as well as solid assurances that the withdrawal process would begin soon. The Afghan cans will be recycled in Tokyo later this year as collecting tins for the as yet many undisclosed international pledges of financial support.

The cans containing tactical nuclear weapons, probably the noisiest and deadliest on the block, were punted into the long grass yet again. Despite being described by a plethora of ministers and experts as relics from the past, actually making

them disappear from Europe continues to be a transatlantic bridge too far. Disarmament it would seem is a [slow and difficult business](#) especially for an alliance that operates at the speed of a golf cart rather than a sports car.

Two former ambassadors to NATO writing in the *New York Times* on the eve of the Summit drew on the Beatles for inspiration. "Will you still need me when I'm sixty-four?" they asked, and answered their own rhetorical question with an unequivocal yes. (In case you hadn't realised, NATO is now in its 64th year). Perhaps it is a good thing that NATO now resembles a comforting Beatles song or a warm woolly jumper that your grandma has knitted and that its 25th summit (the first was held in Paris in 1957) passed off with a [few stifled yawns](#).



Of course, given the huge Beatles back catalogue, there are numerous other songs that could have applied to this Summit. "Across the Universe" for extended 'Out of Area' operations, "All Together Now" for the US can shaking exercise aka 'The Afghan Reset Levy', "Carry That Weight" for Smart Defence and burden sharing and "Do You Want to Know a Secret?" in response to what goes on at North Atlantic Council meetings.

It is also reassuring to know that should the Blue Meanies—last spotted in Tehran, Sanaa, Islamabad, Moscow or Paris, depending upon which of the 17 US intelligence agencies' reports you believe—ever seek to re-invade Pepperland, NATO is there to defend us. The 'interim ballistic missile defence capability' will be more than a match for the Meanies' guns that fire petrifying jagged arrows (but probably not ballistic missiles with decoys), while The Dreadful Flying Glove will continue to be deterred by US tactical nuclear weapons in Europe that are almost as old as Sir Paul McCartney, but nowhere near as endearing or useful



News, Commentary and Reports:

Afghanistan-Pakistan:

News

[US steps up drone attacks in Pakistan after convoy talks fail](#), *The Telegraph*, 28 May

[NATO has fight on its hands in Afghanistan – Panetta](#), *Reuters*, 27 May

(photo credit: Stitch/ flickr)

[Revealed: Britain to build its own Afghan militia after troops withdraw](#), *The Independent*, 26 May - as foreign forces prepare to stand down, NATO is ready to fund a local replacement with a dark history

[Drone Strikes Continue in Pakistan as Tension Increases and Senate Panel Cuts Aid](#), *New York Times*, 24 May

[Afghans 'not ready' as US starts pull-out](#), Jonathan Owen, *The Independent*, 20 May - British soldiers are on full alert as a bloody Taliban backlash is predicted

[Charting Obama's Journey to a Shift on Afghanistan](#), *New York Times*, 19 May

[At Chicago NATO summit, leaders map out strategy to end Afghan war with goals unmet](#), *Washington Post*, 19 May

[A glimpse of life after Nato in Afghanistan's wild east](#), *BBC News*, 19 May

[Nato fears split over Afghan withdrawal will fuel bloodshed](#), *The Independent*, 19 May - Hollande's pledge to pull out troops early will dominate Chicago talks as UK bill is set to hit £20bn

[Afghanistan fundraising goal elusive before NATO summit](#), *Reuters*, 18 May

[UN urges participants at NATO summit to provide massive long-term support for Afghan forces](#), *Washington Post*, 18 May

(Army Field Support Battalion-Kandahar RPAT Yard, 10 May – photo credit: 401st_AFSB/ flickr)

[US urges allies to make Afghanistan pledges](#), *Financial Times*, 18 May

[U.S. Redefines Afghan Success Before Conference](#), *New York Times*, 17 May

[Report: NATO's Afghan Exit Risks State Collapse](#), *Voice of America*, 17 May

[Member of Afghan Peace Council Is Assassinated](#), *New York Times*, 13 May

[Afghan commanders show new defiance in dealings with Americans](#), *Washington Post*, 11 May

[U.S., NATO apologize for Afghan civilian deaths](#), *CNN*, 11 May

[NATO head urges Pakistan to open transit routes in time for summit](#), *Reuters*, 11 May

♠♠ [Afghan women fade from White House focus as exit nears](#), *Reuters*, 10 May – George W. and Laura Bush spoke often about Afghan women; Amnesty International wants Obama to spell out plan; Afghanistan set to send all-male delegation to NATO summit; Huge advances in health, education at risk in transition

[Support For War In Afghanistan Falls To New Low, Poll Shows](#), *Huffington Post*, 9 May

[The Taliban are divided and in retreat, insist top US officials](#), *The Independent*, 9 May

[Election Puts French Afghan Force on Notice](#), *New York Times*, 7 May

[Feinstein, Rogers say Taliban 'stronger' since surge](#), *Washington Post*, 7 May - the leaders of the US House and Senate intelligence committees said they believe that the Taliban has grown stronger since President Obama sent 33,000 more US troops to Afghanistan in 2010

[Secret U.S. program releases high-level insurgents in exchange for pledges of peace](#), *Washington Post*, 7 May



[Afghan end game sees Pakistan 'paralysed' by US rift](#), *BBC News*, 4 May

[Long-term security deal Obama inked with Afghanistan makes promises neither side can guarantee](#), *Washington Post*, 3 May

[Obama Signs Pact in Kabul, Turning Page in Afghan War](#), *New York Times*, 1 May

[Afghan War Poses 'Acute Challenges,' Pentagon Report Says](#), *Bloomberg*, 1 May - a semi-annual Pentagon report states that Afghanistan continues to face "long-term and acute challenges" from insurgents, as well as "widespread corruption" within the Afghan government

[US keeps mum on some Afghan attacks](#), *Associated Press*, 1 May - NATO is not revealing every incident of "green-on-blue" violence, by remaining silent on instances in which coalition troops are only wounded or the attacker misses his target

with all our good intentions, with all our wealth and guns and erudition, we find it so difficult to resist exaggerating our fears, and inflating our pride: we find it so difficult to acknowledge the limits of our knowledge and power

Rory Stewart, [It's hard to believe we can build a credible state after so many years of failure](#), *The Independent*, 26 May

[Nato grapples with rogue elements in Afghan ranks](#), *BBC News*, 1 May

Commentary and Reports

[NATO's Third Alternative in Afghanistan](#), Zaman Stanizai, *Huffington Post*, 24 May

[Afghan War Is Not Over Yet](#), Stephen Tankel, *CNN*, 23 May

[The Soviets showed the way to leave Afghanistan](#), Jonathan Steele, *The Guardian*, 21 May - talks with the Taliban and a ceasefire are vital prerequisites to any dignified withdrawal

[Afghan civilian protection during security transition: briefing ahead of NATO summit 20-21 May 2012](#), Consortium of NGOs, May 2012

[NATO's undue optimism on Afghanistan](#), Ronald E. Neumann and Michael O'Hanlon, *Washington Post*, 18 May

[Afghanistan Transition - Elevating the Diplomatic Components of the Transition Strategy at the Chicago NATO Summit and Beyond](#), Caroline Wadhams, Colin Cookman, Brian Katulis, Center for American Progress, May 2012 – this report argues that a transition to Afghan ownership and the drawdown of foreign forces is the right approach for the long-term interests of Afghanistan, the region, and the United States and its NATO partners. But to be successful and sustainable, there must be a clear recognition by all involved that a security transition is inextricably linked to a political transition

♦♦ [Beating a Retreat: Prospects for the Transition Process in Afghanistan](#), Barbara Stapleton, Afghanistan Analysts Network, *AAN Thematic Report*, May 2012 - this report argues that the transition timeline is too short, making the abandonment of a conditions-based approach practically unavoidable; that the plans for withdrawal have become entwined with the complexities of Afghanistan's reconciliation process, and that this may collide with US plans for a continued counter-terrorism strategy from bases inside Afghanistan; and that it is by no means sure that the US will maintain its costly lead role

[Afghanistan in Transition: Looking Beyond 2014](#), The World Bank, May 2012

[Nato's battle of spin with the Taliban marks a new era for Afghanistan](#), Jason Burke, *The Guardian*, 14 May - with no let-up in the US pullout and peace hopes receding, Afghanistan's post-international-intervention era is taking shape

(Marching Against NATO, 20 May – photo credit: World Can't Wait/ flickr)

[Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians](#), Susan G. Chesser, *Congressional Research Service*, 10 May

[Opiate Flows Through Northern Afghanistan and Central Asia: A Threat Assessment](#), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, May 2012

[Measures of 'Progress' in Afghanistan in the Spring of 2012: The Need for Strategic Focus, Transparency and Credibility](#), Anthony H. Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 9 May



[Afghanistan Trip Report V: The Afghan Local Police: "It's Local, So It Must Be Good" - Or Is It?](#) Vanda Felbab-Brown, The Brookings Institution, 9 May



🔴🔴 [How will Nato exit from Afghanistan?](#) *BBC News*, 9 May

[NATO LibGuide on 'NATO in Afghanistan: Transition'](#), May 2012 - this new LibGuide is intended to provide a few starting points to assist with research on transition in Afghanistan, from NATO/ISAF to Afghan leadership

[Stopping a slide to Afghanistan redux](#), *Financial Times* editorial, 7 May

Security Aspects of Peace & Reintegration, Mark Checchia, NATO Civil-Military Fusion Centre, May 2012 - Part 4 of a 4-Part Series on Peace and Reintegration in Afghanistan

[Enduring Strategic Partnership Agreement Between The United States of America And The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan](#), 2 May

[Afghanistan: Obama's groundhog day](#), *The Guardian* editorial, 2 May - with no forceful leadership from the US president, the opportunity to bring the Taliban into a settlement is being lost

[Annual Report on Afghanistan](#), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, April 2012

We've traveled through more than a decade under the dark cloud of war. Yet here, in the pre-dawn darkness of Afghanistan, we can see the light of new day on the horizon.

President Obama, in an address from a military base near Kabul, Afghanistan, *New York Times*, 1 May

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

[NATO chief says 'no intention' to intervene in Syria](#), *AFP*, 20 May

[U.S., allies accelerating plans to secure chemical arsenal as Syrian crisis worsens](#), *Washington Post*, 19 May

[Why NATO Intervention in Syria Makes No Sense](#), Volodymyr Navrotsky, *transatlantic-community.org*, 9 May - NATO has rich experience in conducting operations in places such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. Nevertheless, NATO is not the institution which has to preserve world peace

[Europe and NATO's response to the Arab Uprisings](#), Andrea Teti, *Open Democracy*, 7 May

[US, NATO exploring post-Assad scenarios in Syria, says top general](#), *The Hill* (blog), 2 May

[Don't let Syria become Libya](#), Hamid Dabashi, *Al Jazeera*, 1 May - UN Secretary General Kofi Annan must be allowed to mediate a real peace in Syria in lieu of a Libya-style redux

[The Arab Spring's Implications for NATO](#), Rabah Ghezali, *Huffington Post*, 30 April



Chicago Summit: **Official texts**

[Chicago Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Chicago on 20 May 2012](#), Press Release (2012) 062, 21 May

[Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan Issued by the Heads of State and Government of Afghanistan and Nations contributing to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force \(ISAF\)](#), 21 May

[NATO's policy guidelines on counter-terrorism](#), 21 May

[Summit Declaration on Defence Capabilities: Toward NATO Forces 2020](#), Press Release (2012) 064, 20 May

[Deterrence and Defence Posture Review](#), Press Release (2012) 063, 20 May

NATO statements

[Closing Remarks](#) by NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow at the Chicago Young Atlanticists' Summit, 23 March

[Press conference](#) by the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen following the meeting with Partners in Heads of State and Government format, 21 May

[Opening remarks](#) by the NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the meeting with partners in Heads of State and Government format, 21 May

[Press conference](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen following the meeting on Afghanistan in Heads of State and Government format, 21 May

[Opening Remarks](#) by the NATO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Alexander Vershbow at the Meeting of the NATO Foreign Ministers with Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 21 May

[Welcoming remarks](#) by United States President Barack Obama at the meeting on Afghanistan in Heads of State and Government Format, 21 May

[Opening remarks](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the meeting on Afghanistan in Heads of State and Government Format, 21 May



[Press conference](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen after the first session of the North Atlantic Council in Heads of State and Government format, 20 May

[Opening remarks](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Heads of State and Government format, 20 May

[Official greetings](#) by the the President of the United States and the NATO Secretary General at the NATO Summit In Chicago, 20 May (photo credit: NATO)

[Doorstep statement](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the beginning of the Summit meetings of Heads of State and Government in Chicago, 20 May

NATO press releases

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 'Success in Chicago', 21 May

[NATO Chicago summit meets its goals](#), NATO News, 21 May - NATO leaders concluded a decisive summit, taking key decisions on the Alliance's future engagement in Afghanistan, military capabilities and worldwide partnerships

[NATO leaders meet with partners in Chicago](#), NATO News, 21 May - NATO Allies welcomed in Chicago leaders from partner countries from across the globe in different partnership meetings and thanked them for the contributions they make to the work of the Alliance



[NATO Summit sends strong message of commitment to Afghanistan](#), NATO News, 21 May - leaders from NATO's 28 nations and the 22 partners in the ISAF coalition today gave Afghanistan a clear, long-term commitment to continue supporting the Afghan National Security Forces after the NATO-led ISAF mission is completed in 2014

[World leaders gather at NATO Summit to commit to Afghan future](#), NATO News, 21 May - International leaders are meeting to discuss how to complete the NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and how to show their continued commitment to the Afghan people beyond that date (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Programme takes off in Chicago](#), NATO News, 20 May - NATO nations took an important step towards the delivery of a NATO-owned and operated ground surveillance and reconnaissance capability. A procurement contract for the AGS system was signed on 20 May 2012 in the margins of the NATO Summit in Chicago, paving the way for the delivery of a vital capability that will be made available to all NATO member nations. Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) will be a NATO-owned and operated system and will be fully operational in 2017

[NATO delivers at Chicago Summit](#), NATO News, 20 May

[NATO declares interim missile defence capability](#), NATO News, 20 May - NATO leaders declared that the Alliance now has an interim ballistic missile defence capability at their Summit in Chicago, marking the first step in the development of a NATO missile defence system

[NATO Chicago Summit opens](#), NATO News, 20 May

NATO media backgrounders

[Afghan National Security Forces \(ANSF\)](#), NATO Public Diplomacy Division, May 2012

[Media backgrounder: Alliance Ground Surveillance](#), NATO Public Diplomacy Division, May 2012

[Media backgrounder: Multinational Projects](#), NATO Public Diplomacy Division, May 2012

[NATO Ballistic Missile Defence \(BMD\)](#), NATO Public Diplomacy Division, May 2012

[Media backgrounder: Transition to Afghan lead: Inteqal](#), NATO Public Diplomacy Division, May 2012

NATO's meeting in Chicago this week was dominated by the need to unite behind plans for an orderly retreat from Afghanistan—more politely labelled as a transition to Afghan responsibility for the country's own security.

The alliance had other pressing issues too, such as "smart defence" (an attempt to pool capabilities to get a bit more bang for the euro), pressing on with a European ballistic-missile defence system (in the face of much angry growling from Moscow) and politely brushing aside the hopes of politically inconvenient applicants (partly because of wanting not to annoy Russia still more). But finding a respectable exit from the ten-year conflict against the Taliban and its allies has become the over-riding priority

♦♦ NATO's risky Afghan endgame, *The Economist*, 26 May

Media coverage

[A NATO Summit That Marks a Low](#), *Daniel Politi*, IHT, 25 May

[Is NATO Still Needed?](#) Lawrence Wittner, *Middle East Online*, 24 May

[Summits that cap the west's decline](#), Philip Stephens, *Financial Times*, 24 May

[The World From Berlin 'The People Have Grown Weary of War'](#), *Der Spiegel*, 22 May – NATO has announced concrete plans for withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, a decision that leaders called both "irreversible" and "responsible." But German commentators aren't convinced

[NATO's not very lofty summit](#), Stephen Walt, *Foreign Policy*, 22 May

[Afghans face terror threat after Nato exit, Obama admits](#), *The Independent*, 22 May - President and British advisers acknowledge Afghans face tough future as West looks to open exit routes through Pakistan

[Analysis - Looming end of Afghan mission leaves NATO with identity crisis](#), *Reuters*, 22 May

[NATO summit illustrates political complexities](#), Arthur I. Cyr, *The Korea Times*, 22 May

[NATO Summit on Afghanistan Neglected Critical Discussions](#), Aziz Nayani, *Huffington Post*, 22 May

[Should NATO Exist?](#) Phyllis Bennis vs. Ex-CIAer Stan Sloan on Alliance's Purpose, Afghan War's Future, *Democracy Now*, 22 May

[Nato endorses Afghanistan withdrawal timetable](#), *BBC News*, 22 May (NATO Summit media – photo credit: eylerwerve/ flickr)

[NATO Agrees on Afghan Security Transition in 2013](#), *New York Times*, 21 May

[Al-Qaeda could 're-emerge in Afghanistan after Nato withdrawal'](#), *The Telegraph*, 21 May - Al Qaeda could re-emerge in Afghanistan after NATO troops leave the country in two years' time, alliance officials conceded

[Cash-strapped Europe's reluctance in Obama's Afghan strategy](#), Ferry Biedermann, *The National*, 21 May

[NATO papers over cracks in unity](#), *Euronews*, 21 May

[This is no time for donor fatigue](#), Faith Goldy-Bazos, *National Post*, 21 May



[Pakistan supply routes row hits Nato summit](#), *BBC News*, 21 May

[NATO to hand combat role to Afghans as it seeks way out of war](#), *Reuters*, 21 May

[Obama tries NATO fix for Afghanistan security](#), *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 May

[Time for Nato to fill in the blanks on Afghanistan](#), *The Independent* editorial, 21 May

[Nato summit: US-Pakistan rift widens over supply lines into Afghanistan](#), *The Guardian*, 21 May - Obama refuses bilateral meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Asif Ali Zardari, who wants demands met before roads reopen

[The need to globalise NATO](#), Anne-Marie Slaughter, *The Australian*, 21 May

[Supply Lines Cast Shadow at NATO Meeting on Afghan War](#), *New York Times*, 20 May

[New thinking is needed on Nato](#), Rae Street, Letters, *The Guardian*, 20 May

[Continental drift and Nato's future](#), *Financial Times* editorial, 20 May

[Obama and Karzai outline post-2014 Afghanistan vision at Nato summit](#), *The Guardian*, 20 May - US president urges Afghan counterpart to implement electoral reform, cut out corruption and press Taliban for settlement

♠♠ [Nato talks security and peace, Chicago has neither](#), Garry Young, *The Guardian*, 20 May - the paradox of such a city hosting this summit lays bare the brutal way in which inequality is globally maintained and locally replicated

[NATO summit: The Taliban's view](#), *Christian Science Monitor*, 20 May - the Taliban issued a statement ahead of today's NATO summit in Chicago, expressing frustration with the coalition's moves to 'prolong the occupation'

[Navigating The Future Of NATO](#), Madeleine K. Albright, *Chicago Tribune*, 20 May

[Nato needs a leadership rethink to remain relevant](#), Sarwar Kashmeri, *The Guardian*, 20 May - the alliance is no longer fit for purpose in its current form. Bold vision is needed – but that is not on display in Chicago

[Nato: What is it for?](#) Mark Mardell, *BBC News*, 20 May

NATO Review

[NATO Chicago Summit special edition](#), May 2012 - This edition represents several firsts. For NATO, it is the first time it has held a Summit in North America this century. For NATO Review, it is the first time we have produced a tablet version of the magazine, available when the Summit begins. And it is also the first time we have the President of the United States writing for us. Here, we present his views, along with other high level contributors on what Chicago could mean for the future of NATO and the "Transatlantic" security



[Chicago: right city, right time](#) - NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, explains why he feels there is no better place than Chicago for celebrating the bond between North America and Europe



[Message from President Obama](#) - US President Barack Obama welcomes NATO to Chicago, his hometown. Here he describes how important the Alliance has been for our common security, our freedom and our prosperity for the past 63 years



[Making the concept a reality](#) - NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Admiral James Stavridis, outlines how NATO's new Strategic Concept's ideas have been put into action

[Afghanistan snapshot: how the experts see it](#) - Four prominent Afghans give their views on the country's elections, priorities, women's rights and fight against corruption



[Mr TransAtlantic](#) - Ivo Daalder, US Ambassador to NATO, has crossed many divides. From being a European to an American, an academic to a diplomat - and more. Here he explains how it's helped him at NATO



[Standing in line: what NATO means to me](#) - Stanislava Mladenova has spent half her life in Europe, half in the US. Here she describes the role NATO has played in bringing the strands together



[From Cronkite to Korea: lessons learned](#) - Alexander Vershbow, NATO Deputy Secretary General, talks about coming back to NATO again – and what he learnt on his travels



[The US: at the heart of NATO since day 1](#) - NATO was created by a treaty signed in Washington, DC in 1949. As NATO returns to the US 63 years later for its Chicago Summit, NATO Review highlights some of the key moments of the shared history of the Alliance and its biggest member



[How well do you really know NATO?](#) This 10 question quiz will find out how well you know the Alliance



[Mission impossible?](#) US bloggers, journalists and communications experts reveal how they would try to bring NATO closer to the US public

[Social media and NATO: it's complicated](#) - The US is the home of social media. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and many others were born there. So could social media be the means



that brings NATO closer to US people? We asked a number of communications experts what progress they feel has been made - and what more needs to be done



[NATO Summit 2012: what does it mean to Chicago](#) - NATO Review asked the Governor of State of Illinois, Pat Quinn, about Chicago's preparations for the NATO's 2012 Summit, how the Alliance is perceived in the city and why Chicago represents the best backdrop for NATO's first Summit in North America this century



[Václav Havel: remembering the big little man](#) - Czech Minister of Defence, Alexandr Vondra, remembers one of Europe's and NATO's political giants, Václav Havel



[Two decades of NATO operations: Taking stock, looking ahead](#) - NATO's Diego A. Ruiz Palmer analyses the 20 years of NATO operations that started in 1992 – and looks at how the ones over the next 20 years may look

[Inside out: a different perspective](#) - Italian Minister of Defence, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, talks about switching from being at the heart of an international alliance to a minister in a national government.



Background stories in the run-up to the Summit

[Final countdown to the Chicago Summit](#), NATO News, 19 May

[NATO Secretary General opens Youth Summit in Chicago](#), NATO News, 19 May - on the eve of the NATO Summit, Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen opened a conference gathering young professionals and students from NATO and partner countries from across the globe; "NATO's Chicago Summit", [Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General at the Youth Summit in Chicago, 19 May

[NATO Delivers: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - Photo Exhibition – Chicago](#), NATO News, 18 May - NATO is cooperating with the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago to hold a photo exhibition on NATO efforts to support peace and security. The exhibition will run from 18 May - 7 July 2012 at the Pritzker Military Library and then will tour around the United States and Canada. The exhibition features over 90 images divided into the following six categories: Working Together; Providing Peace and Security; Countering and Preventing Terrorism; Safeguarding the Seas; Meeting Humanitarian Needs; and Tackling New Threats with New Capabilities. You can view the images in an online gallery (photo credit: NATO).

[The Apex of Influence—How Summit Meetings Build Multilateral Cooperation](#), The Stanley Foundation *Policy Memo*, 18 May

[NATO Members to Discuss Burden Sharing](#), *Voice of America*, 17 May



[Veterans say No to NATO](#), Amy Goodman, *Nation of Change*, 17 May

♠♠ [What's Next for NATO? Defining a New Role for the Alliance in a Post-Cold War World](#), Lawrence J. Korb and Max Hoffman, Center for American Progress, May 2012

[NATO Has Become a Form of U.S. Foreign Aid](#), Doub Bindow, CATO Institute, 17 May

[NATO's Chicago Agenda](#), Stewart M. Patrick, Council on Foreign Relations, 17 May

[Anchoring the Alliance](#), R. Nicholas Burns, Damon M. Wilson, Jeff Lightfoot, Atlantic Council, May 2012

[Outside View: The Chicago NATO summit](#), Harlan Ullman, *SpaceWar.com*, 16 May

♠♠ [The Necessity of NATO](#), Anders Fogh Rasmussen, *Project Syndicate*, 14 May

♠♠ [The FP Survey: The Future of NATO](#), *Foreign Policy*, 14 May - does the 63-year-old alliance still matter today? Politicians, scholars, and other observers from both sides of the Atlantic weigh in

[NATO's Chicago Summit](#), Paul Belkin, *Congressional Research Service*, 14 May

[Wither NATO?](#) Khalid Bin Wakil, *Pakistan Observer*, 13 May

[Nato has a mountain to climb in a potentially high-profile summit](#), Karl-Heinz Kamp, *The Scotsman*, 12 May

[With Iran, Syria Looming, Can Obama Save NATO From Disaster At Chicago Summit?](#) Barry Pavel and James Joyner, *Christian Science Monitor*, 11 May

[NATO Summit to Focus on Afghanistan, Capabilities, Partnerships](#), *defpro news*, 11 May

[NATO: Alliance partner Israel not invited to Chicago summit, chief denies any Turkey link](#), *Washington Post*, 11 May

[NATO Secretary General holds talks with US President ahead of Chicago Summit](#), NATO News, 9 May

[NATO's Ordinary Future](#), Robert D. Kaplan, *Stratfor*, 9 May

[EU Presidents To Get NATO Invite](#), *Wall Street Journal* (blog), 7 May

[Afghanistan a major focus of NATO summit](#), *Chicago Sun-Times*, 6 May

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 'German steps towards Chicago', 4 May

[NATO vs. Rogues?](#) John Feffer, *Huffington Post*, 1 May

Local impact and protests

[Chicago police show a lighter hand in controlling anti-Nato demonstrations](#), *The Guardian*, 22 May - despite occasional violent clashes, weekend protests were largely free of the large-scale confrontations seen in other cities

[Attorney: "NATO 3" Activists Detained on Terror Charges in Chicago Are Victims of Police Entrapment](#), *Democracy Now*, 22 May

[Nato protests: how big were the crowds of demonstrators in Chicago?](#) *The Guardian*, 21 May - officials said between 1,800 and 2,000 people protested in Chicago – but those on the ground said the figure was far larger



["No NATO, No War": U.S. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Return War Medals at NATO Summit](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[Scott Olsen, U.S. Vet Who Nearly Lost Life at Occupy Protest, Brings Antiwar Message to NATO Summit](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[U.S. Army Vets Join with Afghans for Peace to Lead Antiwar March at Chicago NATO Summit](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

(Chicago NATO Protests – photo credit: Michael Kappel/ flickr)

[Chicago Activists Denounce Massive Security Apparatus at NATO Summit Amid Cuts to Social Services](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[Chicago Police Face Accusations of Entrapment, Brutality in Crackdown on NATO Protesters](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[As NATO Coalition Unravels in Afghanistan, Global Activists Question Military Alliance's Existence](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[Guitarist, Activist Tom Morello: "Music Can Help Steel the Backbone of Those in the Struggle"](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

[Rev. Jesse Jackson at NATO Protests: "People Are Searching for Alternatives to War"](#), *Democracy Now*, 21 May

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[Chicago police prepare for NATO Summit with riot gear and sound cannon](#), *Russia Today*, 12 May

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[NATO Chicago Video](#), *YouTube*, Sung by Derrick Procell, 5 May - parody of YMCA circa 1978 by the Village People

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[Dead, captured and wanted](#), CNN, 27 April - updated list, originally published in September 2011, taking a look at some of the dead, captured and the remaining most wanted terrorists from the last 10 years

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[Cyber Threat Metrics](#), Mark Mateski, Cassandra M. Trevino, Cynthia K. Veitch, John Michalski, J. Mark Harris, Scott Maruoka, Jason Frye, Sandia National Laboratories, SAND2012-2427, March 2012 - Cyber security is a "nebulous domain... that tends to resist easy measurement and, in some cases, appears to defy any measurement," according to this report

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(Global Hawk – photo credit: Bytemarks/ flickr)

[NATO inks \\$1.7 billion Global Hawk order](#), *Flight Global*, 21 May

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[NATO at Chicago Summit Signs Contract with Northrop Grumman to Lead Trans-Atlantic Team Delivering New ISR Capability to Alliance Forces](#), *Market Watch* Press Release, 20 May - Marks first international signing for Block 40 Global Hawks

To Keep The West Safe, We Must Join Forces, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, *The Times*, 17 May

[Smart Defense and the Future of NATO: Conference Report and Expert Papers](#), Chicago Council on Global Affairs, May 2012 - two months prior to the

2012 NATO summit in Chicago, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs hosted a two-day international conference on the future of the alliance. The Chicago Council engaged a consortium of eight think tanks from NATO member countries and commissioned a set of papers to serve as the backbone of conference discussions. The papers, as well as a final conference report, were publicly released on 14 May in advance of the NATO summit:

+ [Link to the full document](#) (PDF; 7.56 MB)

+ [Link to HTML table of contents](#), with links to individual papers

[NATO pushes for joint projects in lean times](#), *The Sun Daily*, 10 May

[Press briefing by the NATO Spokesperson and the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, General Stéphane Abrial](#), NATO News, 7 May - the NATO Spokesperson held a press briefing and was joined via video-conference by General Stéphane Abrial who briefed on defence reform and Smart Defence issues.

[Can NATO's European members share resources?](#) John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 May

[ECA secures funds for NATO aggressor aircraft purchase](#), *Flight Global*, 1 May

Drones:

[With Control of Drone Strikes, Is Counterterror Chief John Brennan the U.S. "Assassination Czar"?](#) *Democracy Now*, 24 May

[U.S. drone strike kills 10 in northwest Pakistan – officials](#), *Reuters*, 24 May



[Obama's counter-terrorism advisor defends drone strikes](#), *LA Times*, 30 April - Counter-terrorism advisor John Brennan says drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia have saved American lives and that civilian casualties have been rare

I speak out on behalf of Tariq Aziz, a 16-year-old in Pakistan, who was killed because he wanted to document the drone strikes. I speak out on behalf of Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, a 16-year-old born in Denver, killed in Yemen, just because his father was someone we don't like. I speak out on behalf of the Constitution, on behalf of the rule of law. I love the rule of law. I love my country. You are making us less safe by killing so many innocent people.

Medea Benjamin of CODEPINK who [interrupted a speech](#) by President Obama's special adviser on homeland security and counterterrorism, John Brennan'

[Predators for Peace](#), Chack Chow, *Foreign Policy*, 27 April - Drones have revolutionized war. Why not let them deliver aid?

[FAA Releases Lists of Drone Certificates—Many Questions Left Unanswered](#), Electric Frontier Foundation, 19 April

[The Rise of the Killer Drones: How America Goes to War in Secret](#), Michael Hastings, *Rolling Stone*, 16 April - an inside look at how killing by remote control has changed the way we fight

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[NATO has a new role](#), David Van Praagh, *The Ottawa Citizen*, 25 May

[NATO goals in region are becoming stable, but slow going](#), *Southeast European Times*, 25 May

[Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq visits NATO Headquarters](#), NATO News, 11 May - the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Mr. Hoshiyar Zebari visited NATO HQ and met with NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow

[NATO Secretary General worried about Tymoshenko, unlikely to visit Ukraine during Euro 2012](#), *Kyiv Post*, 5 May

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[NATO Secretary General statement on voting in Kosovo in Serbian elections](#), NATO News, 4 May

[NATO Deploys Force in Kosovo Ahead of Serbian Elections](#), *Turkish Weekly*, 2 May

[Kosovo: NATO Deploys Forces Throughout The Country](#), UNPO, 1 May

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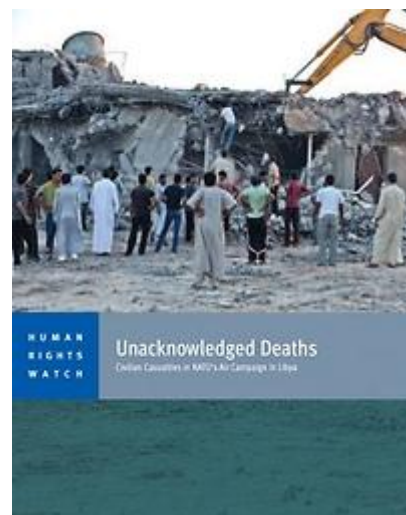
[Is NATO Passing the Buck? An Overdue Investigation](#), Amanda Beerworth Gervais, The Atlantic Council of Canada, 17 May

[Collateral damage: Victims of NATO's war](#), *Al Jazeera*, 15 May - can NATO be sued and held accountable for killing civilians as most recently seen in Libya and Afghanistan?

[If there were global justice, Nato would be in the dock over Libya](#), Seumas Milne, *The Guardian*, 15 May

[Nato hits back at Libya's civilian deaths report](#), *BBC News*, 14 May

[Statement by the NATO spokesperson on Human Rights Watch report](#), NATO News, 14 May - NATO conducted the campaign for Libya with unprecedented care and precision and to a standard exceeding that required by international humanitarian law. The mission was fully consistent with the UN mandate and saved countless lives



[Unacknowledged Deaths](#) - Civilian Casualties in NATO's Air Campaign in Libya, Human Rights Watch, 14 May -this report examines in detail eight NATO air strikes in Libya that resulted in 72 civilian deaths, including 20 women and 24 children. It is based on one or more field investigations to each of the bombing sites during and after the conflict, including interviews with witnesses and local residents

[Nato must investigate the civilian casualties of its Libyan campaign](#), David Mepham, *The Guardian*, 14 May - the alliance risks accusations of double standards if it does not urgently address the issue of civilians killed in its air strikes

[Libyan missiles on the loose](#), David Ignatius, *Washington Post*, 9 May

[The Continuing Threat of Libyan Missiles](#), Scott Stewart, *Stratfor*, 3 May

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[The Rise of Private Maritime Security Companies, Part One: A Look At The Use of Maritime Security Guards or PCASP](#), David Isenberg, *SomaliaReport.com*, 26 May

[Top secret NATO centre switching to UK 01.05.12](#), *British Forces News*, 2 May

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[NATO Continues Plans for Missile Defense](#), *Voice of America*, 22 May (picture credit: VOA)

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[Nato's missile defence shield 'up and running'](#),

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Jonathan Marcus, *BBC News*, 20 May

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[Missile Defense In Europe: Cooperation or Contention?](#) Steven Pifer, *Brookings Institution Arms Control Series Paper No.8*, May 2012

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♣♣ [Yes to Missile Defense, With Russia](#), Wolfgang Ischinger, *New York Times*, 17 May

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[Missile Defense Is Self-Defense](#), Jon Kyl, *Wall Street Journal*, 14 May - Obama may be 'flexible.' But the U.S. owes Russia nothing

[Russia Hints at Use of Short-Range Missiles on NATO Missile Shield](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 May

[Why Moscow says 'nyet' to NATO defense system](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 13 May

[NATO's First Step on Missile Defense](#), Anders Fogh Rasmussen, *Wall Street Journal*, 13 May - the initial elements of the US' network of satellites, sensors and sea-based interceptors are already deployed to Europe

[Advanced U.S. Interceptor Destroys Test Missile](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 10 May

[Interceptor-Dodging Russian ICBM Could Take 10 Years to Prepare](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 May

Missile defense that can't defend against missiles is no defense at all.

U.S. Representative Jared Polis (D-Colo.), questioning the value of existing antimissile technology during a House debate on defense authorization legislation for fiscal 2013

[Putin Calls For Firm NATO Pledge on European Missile Interceptors](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 8 May

[Missile Defense: Ever the Fly in the Ointment of U.S.-Russia Relations](#), Russ Wellen, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 7 May

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[NATO - Russia talk of pre-emptive strike unjustified](#), *Reuters*, 4 May

[NATO Hopeful as Missile Shield Tension Builds](#), *Moscow Times*, 4 May

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[U.S. Expects Progress, Not Breakthrough, at Missile Defense Conference](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 3 May

[Russia's defense minister says U.S.-Russian talks on missile defense 'close to dead end'](#), *Washington Post*, 2 May

[Russia to make hi-tech case against NATO missile shield](#), *Reuters*, 2 May

[NATO May Decide on Stepping Up Missile Defense in Chicago – Defense Ministry](#), *RIA Novosti*, 1 May

[NATO Reaffirms Faith in Antimissile System](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 30 April

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(photo credit: helliothomas/flickr)

[Nuclear weapons just don't make sense](#), Walter Pincus, *Washington Post*, 24 May

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[German FM Pleased With Results of NATO Defense Posture Review](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 23 May

[Disarmament means increasing security](#), *DW*, 23 May - NATO stated its intention of reducing tactical nuclear weapons arsenals in the long term. DW spoke to German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle

[NATO's Deterrence and Defence Posture Review shows that consensus is not possible](#), *No Nukes*, 22 May - former IKV Pax Christi consultant and nuclear disarmament expert Laurens Hogebrink reflects in 10 talking points on NATO's disappointing DDRP adopted at the NATO Summit in Chicago

He must have been drunk.
Barry Blechman, Stimson Center fellow, criticizing comments by Russia's top-ranking military officer that Moscow would use pre-emptive force to neutralize NATO ballistic missile defence systems planned for deployment in Europe, [NATO Calm in Face of Russian Threat of Pre-Emptive Military Action](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 4 May



[NATO's New Nuclear Policy: Consensus without Progress but a Glimmer of Hope for Disarmament](#), Miles A. Pomper, CNS, 22 May - NATO's DDPR fails to resolve the issues of nuclear weapons deployed in Europe

NATO did what it did best, it kicked the can (down the road) as it's done in the past.

Ben Loehrke, Ploughshares Fund senior policy analyst, on the lack of change in the alliance's nuclear posture at the summit in Chicago, [Arms Control Groups Accuse NATO of Keeping Nuclear Status Quo](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 May

[Statement by Former Senator Sam Nunn](#), Co-Chairman, Nuclear Threat Initiative, NATO Deterrence and Defense Posture Review, 21 May

[NATO Maintains Nuclear Weapons' Role in Deterrence](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 21 May

[NATO On Nuclear Weapons: Opportunities Missed and Next Steps Forward](#), Daryl G. Kimball, Oliver Meier, and Paul Ingram, *Arms Control Now* (blog), 21 May

[NATO's Nuclear Ground Hog Day?](#) Hans Kristensen, *FAS Strategic Security Blog*, 18 May

[Why Europe Still Needs Nuclear Deterrence](#), Imants Liegis, Linas Linkevičius, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, *Project Syndicate*, 17 May

[Time to abandon the 'Moscow criterion'](#), Menzies Campbell,

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[It's Time to Put the Nuclear Issue Behind Us: The Chicago Summit Has More Urgent Priorities than Nuclear Theology](#), Lord Robertson, Franklin C. Miller, Kori Schake, Atlantic Council Issue Brief, May 2012



(photo credit: Danndalf/ flickr)

One of the ironies in this whole debate about nonstrategic nuclear weapons in Europe is the countries that have them don't want them and the countries that don't have them want the ones who don't want them to keep them.

Malcolm Chalmers, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Research Director, discussing the debate within NATO on the future of US tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Turkey, [NATO Should Use Summit to Address U.S. Tactical Nukes in Europe, Experts Say](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 May

[US Nuclear Weapons Upgrades Experts Report Massive Cost Increase](#), *Der Spiegel*, 16 May

[Poland, Norway Call For NATO Tactical Arms Control Talks With Russia](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 15 May

[Chicago and Beyond](#), Nuclear Threat Initiative, 14 May

♠♠ [NATO, Russia and Tactical Nuclear Arms](#), Radoslaw Sikorski, Warsaw Foreign minister of Poland and Jonas Gahr Store, Oslo Foreign minister of Norway, *New York Times*, 14 May

[B-61 Bomb Project Expense Projection Hits \\$6B, Report Says](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 May

[Nato plans to upgrade nuclear weapons 'expensive and unnecessary'](#), *The Guardian*, 10 May - proposals to modernise nuclear arsenal will heighten tensions with Russia, warns thinktank backed by ex-ministers

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and trends of US and Russian non-strategic forces. It was briefed to reporters on 3 May and hill staffers and US government officials on 4 May. Briefing slides are [here](#)

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[Ending NATO's double standard](#), David Rohde, *Reuters*, 17 May

[Civilian And Military Capacity To Protect Populations: Tools To Implement The Third Pillar Of The Responsibility To Protect](#), ICRtoP, May 2012 - third educational tool in series of documents on the role of actors and measures available under the third pillar of RtoP

[Operationalizing the Responsibility to Protect: A Contribution to the Third Pillar Approach](#), Edited by Daniel Fiott, Robert Zuber and Joachim Koops, Madariaga – College of Europe Foundation, Global Action to Prevent War, the Global Governance Institute and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect, May 2012

NATO really stands for North America and The Others. Without the United States, the Europeans would be essentially helpless

Doug Bandow, [NATO: An Alliance Past Its Prime](#), *The National Interest*, 26 April

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[Strengthening NATO's Special Ops Forces is real Smart Defense](#), Franklin D. Kramer and Jordan Becker, Atlantic Council, 12 May

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[Does NATO matter for US defence policy?](#) Daniel Keohane, *FRIDE Policy Brief* No.129, May 2012 - the renewed focus of US defence policy towards Asia does not endanger the future of NATO. Although it will not respond to every crisis in and around Europe, the US is not disengaging from European security. But Europeans need to think harder about their collective security interests and willingness to use force.

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[Force Changes in Europe to Preserve Strategic Edge](#), Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, 7 May

Transparency and Accountability:

[Shaping a better, more open NATO](#), Ian Davis, *The Hill*, 14 May

[NATO's Secret Army](#) by Daniel Ganser, *The Voice of Russia*, 5 May

[The Challenge of Making NATO's Voice Heard](#), Stefanie Babst, WE-NATO, 4 May

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(photo credit: ex.libris/flickr)

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

Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: darkmatter/flickr)

Canada

[Harper's body language speaks volumes at NATO summit](#), The Globe and Mail, 21 May

[NATO summit: Pressure on Canada to keep funding Afghanistan defence](#), *Canada.com*, 19 May

[As Washington cuts, Canada pressed to ramp up defence spending](#), *Canada.com*, 8 May



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[Denmark's Strategic Importance to Transatlantic Security](#), Niall Mulchinock, *transatlantic-community.org*, 2 May - in response to Lord West's comments branding Denmark and Belgium as second-rate countries while insisting that Britain will continue to remain a major power, despite its defence cuts, it is necessary to signify the important role that Denmark plays in regards to its continued commitment to transatlantic security

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[Hollande faces NATO wrath over Afghan troop pullout](#), *France24*, 21 May

[France eager to avoid Nato clash over Afghanistan troop withdrawal](#), *The Guardian*, 17 May - Hollande to adopt conciliatory tone despite earlier pledge to withdraw all French combat troops by end of the year

[Hollande to Reassure Allies on Afghan Plans: Analysts](#), *Defense News*, 13 May

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[Hollande victory rattles Nato's Afghan war plans](#), *Hindustan Times*, 7 May

[If France Goes Left, is NATO All Right?](#) *The Atlantic Council of Canada*, 3 May

[Hollande's France would tweak NATO, Afghan roles but hold hard Sarkozy line on Syria, Iran](#), *Washington Post*, 3 May



(French presidential elections, Bastille, Paris, 6 May – photo credit: philippe leroyer/ flickr)

Germany

[Unreliable Partners? Germany's Reputation in NATO Has Hit Rock Bottom](#), Ulrike Demmer and Christoph Schult, *Der Spiegel*, 17 May

[Germany urged to pay more on defence](#), *Financial Times*, 4 May

[Germany struggles with homecoming of Afghanistan veterans](#), *Washington Post*, 30 April - German soldiers returning from Afghanistan are reportedly feeling shunned and under-recognized by their government and communities. Germany does not have an equivalent to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, has no official support system for veterans struggling to reintegrate into society, and officials even fear using the phrase "fallen soldiers" because of any reference it might have to World War II

Lithuania

[MEPs press Lithuania to re-launch CIA rendition probe](#), *EU Observer.com*, 30 April

Romania

[NATO Secretary General - Press Point w/Prime Minister of Romania](#), *NATOchannel.tv/ You Tube*, 10 May

Turkey

[Turkey Flexes Muscles Before NATO Summit](#), *Voice of America*, 16 May

[Losing Democracy: Turkey under the AKP](#), Anonymous, *transatlantic-community.org*, 7 May - the first election of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) brought Turkish citizens hope regarding the democratization of the country. Two terms later, opponents are imprisoned because of their political ideas, religious values are infringing on secular institutions, and power is being concentrated at the top



[Border clashes raises fears that Turkey may call Nato into conflict](#), Thomas Seibert, *The National*, 2 May

(Syrian refugees wave Turkish and Syrian Independence flags during a protest against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad at Yayladagi refugee camp in Hatay province near the Turkish-Syrian border 20 April 2012 – photo credit: FreedomHouse2/ flickr)

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[BAE wins £1.6bn Saudi training contract](#), *Financial Times*, 23 May

[Two carriers now a necessity following F-35 U-turn](#), Defence Dateline Group, *DefenceIQ.com*, 22 May

[UK special forces will stay in Afghanistan in anti-terror role](#), *The Observer*, 20 May - Up to 200 British troops will remain after the 2014 pull-out date, alongside 90 training officers

[Trident divides coalition partners](#), *Financial Times*, 18 May

[UK in cold war doctrine rethink](#), *Financial Times*, 17 May - the 40-year-old cornerstone of Britain's nuclear deterrent doctrine – the ability to overwhelm Moscow's ballistic missile defences and obliterate the Russian capital – is being challenged in a government review

[UK to push for UN arms trade treaty](#), *Financial Times*, 16 May



[MoD plugs £38bn budget 'black hole'](#), *Financial Times*, 14 May

(UK's Largest Crane Delivered to Scotland to Build CVF Aircraft Carrier, March 2011 – photo credit: UK MoD/ flickr)

[In defence of greatness: Britain's carrier saga](#), Paul Rogers, *Open Democracy*, 10 May

[Inelegant U-turn on UK defence](#), *Financial Times* editorial, 10 May

[F-35: The verdict is in](#), Andrew Elwell, *Defence IQ*, 10 May - Defence Secretary Philip Hammond has finally announced that the UK will be reverting to the

jump-jet F-35B variant of the Joint Strike Fighter programme after costs to modify the Queen Elizabeth-class carriers for the F-35C fighter jet began to spiral

[Cuts force Royal Navy to drop Somalia piracy patrol](#), *The Guardian*, 8 May - four frigates scrapped in defence review leave navy unable to commit full-time to David Cameron's foreign policy priority

Parliamentary Question: NATO

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government has contributed to NATO's (a) civil budget, (b) military budget and (c) Security Investment Programme since 2002. [103920]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The amount contributed by the UK to NATO's civil budget, military budget and the NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) since 2002 is as follows:

£ million

Financial year	Civil Budget (1)	Military Budget (2)	NSIP (3)
2002-03	18.2	54.8	40.9
2003-04	18.7	39.9	48.4
2004-05	17.6	61.8	61.1
2005-06	17.8	53.6	64.7
2006-07	17.3	73.1	50.2
2007-08	25.9	72.3	58.8
2008-09	25.7	86.5	68.9
2009-10	26.3	95.1	76.3
2010-11	24.7	100.8	73.3
2011-12	22.8	104.3	66.3

(1) Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. (2) Funded by the Ministry of Defence. (3) Military Budget & NSIP amounts include costs for NATO Operations and Missions.

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United States

[US 'must plan \\$500bn extra defence cuts'](#), *defence management.com*, 28 May

[Congress Wars: Battle for the defense budget](#), *CNN*, 28 May

[NATO's Warrior Scholars: The Critical Backbone of Our Atlantic Alliance](#), Mark V. Vlasic, *Huffington Post*, 28 May

[Special Operations Delegates from 96 Nations Meet in Florida](#), Cheryl Pellerin, American Forces Press Service, 24 May

(Force Recon Marines – photo credit: An Honorable German/ flickr)



[The Globalisation of U.S. Special Operations Forces](#), David Isenberg, *IPS*, 24 May -it was recently reported that US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) commander Adm. Bill McRaven and Deputy Director of Operations Brig. Gen. Sean Mulholland want to establish a worldwide network linking special operations forces (SOF) of allied and partner nations to combat terrorism

As president, I will work closely with our partners to bolster the alliance....I will reverse Obama-era military cuts. I will exercise leadership on missile defense, cyber capability, energy security and sufficiently mobile forces

Mitt Romney, [Romney: Obama action will 'undermine' NATO alliance](#), *AFP*, 18 May

[S.Res. 395: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of NATO and the NATO summit to be held in Chicago, Illinois from May 20 through 21, 2012](#), 112th Congress, 2011–2012; Introduced: Mar 13, 2012 Sponsor: Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL] Status: Passed (Simple Resolution)

[U.S. defense budget debate touches on Afghanistan, NASCAR](#), *Reuters*, 18 May

[The Domestic Terrorist Threat: Background and Issues for Congress](#), Jerome P. Bjelopera, Congressional Research Service, 15 May - by one official reckoning, there were 35 terrorist incidents in the United States between 2004 and 2011

[Proliferation of Precision Strike: Issues for Congress](#), Randy Huiss, Congressional Research Service, 14 May

[House Panel Calls for Study of Refueling Tactical Nukes in Western Pacific](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 May

[The Next War](#), Douglas A. Ollivant, Radha Iyengar, *Foreign Policy*, 3 May - Americans are fooling themselves if they think the era of adventures abroad is over. In fact, another big international intervention is just around the corner. And we're not nearly ready for it.



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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