



DEBATE PACK

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NATO

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Compiled by:
Nigel Walker

Subject specialists:
Louisa Brooke-Holland
Claire Mills

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

NATO holds its next summit in Brussels on 11-12 July 2018. Defence Ministers meet on 7-8 June to finalise plans for the summit.

At the summit, NATO is expected to announce a new Atlantic Command and a new European Logistics Command. Both are driven by concerns about Russia's military behaviour in the last few years.

The Atlantic Command is a response to Russia's increased activity in the Atlantic. The Defence Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has [referred](#) to a "significant increase" in submarine activity in the north Atlantic. The Command is [rumoured](#) to be likely established in the US. In addition, there is talk of a new [maritime strategy](#).

The European Logistics Command recognises the need to ensure NATO troops can move easily across Alliance territory. Over the last few years NATO has actively bolstered defence capabilities along its eastern flank to act as a deterrent to Russia. The next step is to ensure troops can easily reinforce them or move quickly to wherever they may be needed. NATO says it is also looking at ways to improve the speed of decision-making and to empower the Supreme Commander to move forces around NATO. The UK is actively involved in NATO's 'deterrence and defence' policy: the UK leads one of the Enhanced Forward Presence deployments in Estonia and RAF Typhoons are patrolling the skies from Romania over the Black Sea. That said, a senior NATO official has clearly [stated](#) that "NATO does not see the threat of a massive Russian military invasion of any NATO country."

NATO is also adding a [cyber operation centre](#) into the command structure. NATO declared cyberspace as an operational domain – alongside land, sea and air – in 2016. Again, this reflects growing concern about the use of cyberspace by Russia and others to "[intimidate and destabilise](#)".

Burden-sharing, and meeting NATO's target to spend 2% of GDP on defence, will figure highly at the Summit. President Trump has been particularly vocal about the need for European allies to spend more on defence. And, aside from the actual monetary figure, a key factor is where the money is being spent: NATO Allies need the defence capabilities to contribute to NATO operations and missions.

Countering instability and terrorism emanating from NATO's southern flank will also be discussed. Tackling terrorism is not NATO's primary task but, as with migration across the Mediterranean, it has supported the response of European Allies. NATO's assistance will [include](#) a new package support for Jordan, a new capacity building package for Tunisia

and a new training mission in Iraq. The Alliance will also reaffirm its commitment to the [Resolute Support mission](#) in Afghanistan.

The Defence Committee is looking into [US, NATO and UK defence relations](#) and heard from the Secretary of State for Defence on [22 May 2018](#). The Lords [International Relations Committee](#) will shortly publish a report on the NATO Summit after taking evidence from senior NATO and FCO officials.

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views of accuracy of external content.

[**NATO command center to be built in Germany: report**](#)

Deutsche Welle
1 June 2018

[**Secretary General welcomes President of Colombia to NATO**](#)

NATO News
31 May 2018

[**NATO-Russia Council meets in Brussels**](#)

NATO News
31 May 2018

[**Here are the top 5 issues on the docket for NATO's 2018 summit**](#)

Defense News
Daniel Cebul
30 May 2018

[**NATO should adopt 'hybrid warfare' response trigger: special rapporteur**](#)

Japan Times
AFP
28 May 2018

[**NATO is welcoming its latest 'global partner' — the first one from Latin America**](#)

Reuters
27 May 2018

[**Why Germany's Failure to Meet Its NATO Spending Goal Matters**](#)

National Review
Bonnie Kristian
24 May 2018

[**Challenging Nato: European states should spend more on their defence to win the trust of the US**](#)

The Times
18 May 2018

[**Britain prepares to send 400 more troops back to Afghanistan to counter Isil threat**](#)

Daily Telegraph
Dominic Nicholls
18 May 2018

[Nato defence pledge: Why has Donald Trump had such a stormy relationship with the alliance and what is Article 5?](#)

Independent
Joe Sommerlad
17 May 2018

['Great power competition': Nato announces Atlantic command to counter Russia](#)

Guardian
Associated Press
5 May 2018

[Needed: A Balkan initiative for the NATO summit](#)

Defense News
Hans Binnendijk and Edward P. Joseph
2 May 2018

3. Press Releases

[Foreign Secretary to discuss Russia at NATO meeting](#)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

27 April 2018

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson will discuss Russia's continued "reckless and destabilising" activity, at a NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Brussels today (April 27).

During his intervention at the meeting, the Foreign Secretary will also urge fellow NATO allies to do more to tackle 'hybrid threats' such as cyber-attacks, and interference in the domestic politics and infrastructure of Russia's near-neighbours.

Ahead of the meeting, the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

This is the first NATO Foreign Ministerial since the attempted murder in Salisbury, and the chemical weapons attack in Syria. It is a key moment to discuss Russia with foreign ministers of all 29 allies.

At the July Summit NATO will take decisions on how to enhance its deterrence and defence.

NATO's ability to react quickly has already been demonstrated by the Alliance's swift response to both the attack in Salisbury and in Syria, and by its show of solidarity with the UK's actions.

We have seen similar support from the EU and the G7. We must now maintain momentum and hold Russia to account for its reckless and destabilising behaviour.

During the meeting, Allies will also discuss other important issues including Afghanistan, enlargement, and projecting stability.

[UK side by side with Allies a year on from NATO deterrence deployment](#)

Ministry of Defence

27 March 2018

In his first visit to the Baltic ally, the Defence Secretary reaffirmed to the Estonian President and Defence Minister the UK's unwavering commitment to Euro-Atlantic security, a year after UK forces first arrived in country.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

For nearly 70 years, NATO has been the guarantee of mutual security. The threats and dangers we face are evolving, intensifying and increasingly challenging - our

commitment to our Allies has seldom been more important.

I've seen first-hand the vital role our brave Armed Forces are playing on NATO's eastern border, standing shoulder to shoulder with our Allies to deter Russian aggression.

Nearly 2000 British troops, across two rotations, have led a multinational battlegroup in Estonia as part of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) deployment since it officially began just under a year ago in April 2017.

In an address, alongside his Estonian counterpart, Defence Minister Jüri Luik, to the 800 British troops and their NATO colleagues, stationed there now Mr Williamson said this reflected Britain's global outlook and commitment to the defence of our friends and Allies across the Baltic region.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh are currently based in Tapa to enhance NATO's deterrence posture and the Defence Secretary confirmed that the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment will take over from them in June as the UK's enduring presence in Estonia continues.

The UK's battlegroup forms part of the wider NATO eFP, with four multinational battlegroups deployed across the Baltic States and Poland, led by the UK, US, Canada and Germany. The UK has a further 150 soldiers based in Poland, part of the US led battlegroup, and RAF Typhoons are due to deploy to Romania in May, patrolling the Black Sea skies.

In addition to the 800 personnel, the UK has committed more than 150 vehicles to support Estonia during this deployment, including Warrior infantry fighting vehicles and Challenger 2 tanks.

The Defence Secretary also held meetings in Tallinn with the President Kersti Kaljulaid, Prime Minister Jüri Ratas and Defence Minister Jüri Luik.

[UK steps up commitment to a modernised NATO](#)

Ministry of Defence

15 February 2018

Speaking at a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson set out his ambition for a modern NATO that delivers on its commitments.

Mr Williamson signalled that the UK will meet its commitments, including an uplift of around one hundred personnel in our contribution to NATO's modernised Command Structure - the precise numbers will be determined through further work between now and the Summit. This will help to ensure that NATO can meet the security challenges of today and tomorrow.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

NATO is the cornerstone of our defence but we live in an uncertain world, with the confrontation and conflict we face shifting and evolving. NATO must modernise at the same pace, so we can respond better and faster to deter those that threaten our safety and way of life.

NATO will today discuss a range of issues including burden sharing, cooperation with the European Union, and efforts to modernise the Alliance. A key element of modernising NATO will be the adaptation of the Alliance's Command Structure. Defence Ministers will decide whether to implement a design which includes proposals for a new Command for the Atlantic and a Command to improve the movement of military forces across Europe.

The proposed Command Structure, which has been influenced by senior British staff, represents a key aspect of the UK's priority to modernise and strengthen NATO so it remains able to command and control its missions and operations wherever they are required.

Over the two-day Ministerial, Defence leaders will discuss efforts to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defence posture. Britain's Armed Forces have taken a leading role in NATO's enhanced Forward Presence, providing the Framework battlegroup in Estonia and a providing a company to the US-led enhanced Forward Presence battlegroup in Poland. The Defence Secretary welcomed the arrival of Danish forces in Estonia and the announcement that France will return in 2019 to support the UK-led force. NATO's role in the fight against terrorism was also discussed with the Defence Secretary welcoming the progress that has been made.

NATO remains the cornerstone of UK defence and, as one of the largest contributors, is one of only a few NATO countries pledging at least 2% of their GDP to defence.

PM statement on NATO Secretary-General extension

10 Downing Street

12 December 2017

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

Secretary-General Stoltenberg has been a true champion of the NATO Alliance and the values it represents. He has made sure that NATO has stood strong but not stood still, meeting Russian aggression in eastern Europe while reforming to face developing threats such as cyber-attacks and hybrid-warfare.

The UK has always shared his desire to ensure that NATO keeps pace in an ever-changing environment. I am delighted that the Secretary-General will now have the opportunity to build on this and I look forward to continuing our strong partnership.

Foreign Secretary attends NATO Foreign Ministers summit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
6 December 2017

The Foreign Secretary stressed NATO's invaluable role in combatting international terrorism as he arrived at the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels today (6 December).

Speaking to media ahead of the meeting, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

We'll be talking about promoting the security and integrity of Georgia in the face of the challenge from Russia and the territorial aggression from Russia.

We're also looking at what NATO can do to tackle terrorism, particularly in the Southern region.

NATO Secretary General announces dates for 2018 Brussels Summit
NATO
20 October 2017

I am pleased to announce that the next NATO Summit will be held on 11 and 12 July 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

We will further strengthen the bond between Europe and North America on which our Alliance is founded, as we continue to adapt our Alliance for the 21st century. In response to evolving threats, NATO has implemented the biggest reinforcement of our collective defence in a generation. Our multinational battlegroups in the east of the Alliance are now fully operational and we are strengthening our presence in the Black Sea region. We are also stepping up our efforts against cyber-attacks and hybrid threats.

We will build on our valuable work with partner nations and organisations to fight terrorism and keep our neighbourhood stable. We are boosting our mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan forces to ensure their country never again becomes a safe haven for international terrorists. We are supporting the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and working to strengthen partners like Iraq. We are further deepening the relationship between NATO and the European Union, for the benefit of all our nations.

Belgium has generously hosted NATO Headquarters for fifty years, and I warmly welcome that our summit will take place in our new Headquarters in Brussels. I look forward to a successful Summit in July 2018.

Defence Secretary steps up UK commitments to NATO

Ministry of Defence

29 June 2017

Sir Michael Fallon has announced a package of new contributions to NATO, underlining the UK's leading role within the Alliance.

At a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers today, the Defence Secretary confirmed:

- The Royal Navy will take the lead of half of NATO's maritime forces for a year.
- Offensive cyber support to NATO operations.
- Increased UK support for advising the Afghan Government, and its defence and security forces.
- Strengthened cooperation on Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

The meeting also confirmed that Britain continues to meet its commitment of spending 2% of GDP on defence, as well as meeting the target of 20% defence spend on equipment and capabilities.

Leading NATO's maritime forces

HMS Duncan, a state of the art Type 45 Destroyer, will lead NATO's Standing Maritime Naval Group 2 (SNMG2), providing reassurance and deterrence in the Black Sea, as well as commanding NATO's counter migration activity in the Mediterranean. The naval force will also exercise together to improve the Alliance's readiness and ability to work together on operations, as well as conducting port visits in the region, including to Ukraine.

HMS Enterprise will also lead Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 2 (SNMCMG2) from July this year. The Mine Countermeasures Group is a multinational, integrated maritime force, made up of vessels from a number of NATO countries. The group is mainly based in the Mediterranean and is capable of searching for and disposing of explosive ordnance. HMS Enterprise will be the flagship for the force, and will be joined by HMS Pembroke in the second half of 2017.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

As part of our leadership within the Alliance, we're stepping up our NATO commitments. Whether it's in the cyber domain, where I'm committing UK support to NATO operations, or on the high seas with HMS Duncan and HMS Enterprise leading half of the Alliance's maritime forces in the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Black Sea, Britain is playing its full part.

Strengthening cooperation on Maritime Patrol Aircraft

On the margins of today's meeting, Sir Michael signed a Statement of Intent on North Atlantic Maritime Patrol with his US and Norwegian counterparts. The agreement enhances collaboration on each nation's P-8A Maritime Patrol Aircraft programmes and will provide NATO Allies

with multiple benefits in the maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine areas.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

The P-8A aircraft will play a vital role in protecting the UK's nuclear deterrent, the two new Queen Elizabeth Class carriers and supporting our NATO Allies.

By investing in these aircraft, as part of our £178 billion defence equipment programme, we're showing that we're serious in tackling the threats on NATO's North Atlantic flank.

And in stepping up our cooperation with the US and Norway on maritime patrol around our shores, we will help keep Britain safer and more secure.

Stepping up to counter terror around the world

The Defence Secretary also confirmed today that Britain is stepping up its support to Afghanistan, with around 85 extra service personnel to support NATO's mission in the country.

Britain has an enduring commitment to Afghanistan, and supporting the Government and the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANDSF) helps to prevent the country from becoming a safe haven for terror.

The increase of UK personnel comes in response to a NATO request, which was made to all partner nations, for additional troops to support the Alliance's train, advise and assist mission in the country.

The additional troops will continue to work in non-combat roles mentoring the Afghan Army and Police, the Afghan Air Force, and will provide further support to the ANDSF in training and leadership development.

Underlining Britain's leadership within NATO, the uplift will add to the already significant contribution of 500 troops the UK already makes to NATO's Resolute Support Mission.

Endgame for Daesh in Mosul

Three years on since the start of the so-called caliphate was proclaimed in Mosul, Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon underlined that Daesh faces its endgame in the city where it originally launched its ideological campaign of terror and violence.

Sir Michael said that the terrorist group faces irreversible momentum and progress from local forces on the ground, and UK and Coalition aircraft in the skies. UK aircrew have now hit over 700 targets in support of operations to liberate Mosul since last year. In addition to operations over Mosul, the RAF has so far struck 69 targets in and

around Raqqa in support of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) advancing on the city from the north, east and west.

With Daesh losing ground on two fronts in Mosul and Raqqa, around 70% of territory once controlled by the terror group in Iraq and 51% in Syria, has now been liberated. This amounts to over 4 million Iraqis and Syrians who have been freed from Daesh tyranny.

Montenegro joins NATO

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

5 June 2017

Responding to Montenegro's accession to NATO, the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

NATO is the bedrock of our collective security and I welcome Montenegro as the 29th member. The UK has long been a firm supporter of Montenegro's accession, as well as its commitment to reform and progress. I congratulate them on a historic step forward.

Montenegro now takes on both the benefits and responsibilities of NATO membership and collective defence. We look forward to building on our close relationship for the defence and security of our citizens.

4. PQs

[Sweden: NATO](#)

22 May 2018 | 144380

Asked by: Andrew Bowie

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to encourage closer cooperation between Sweden and NATO; and whether he has held discussions with his Swedish counterpart on that country's potential membership of NATO.

Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary regularly discusses common security issues with his Swedish counterpart. The UK fully supports Sweden's participation with NATO as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner, and cooperates with Sweden on a range of activities. For example, Sweden has contributed to NATO's Resolute Support Mission, to the NATO Response Force, and taken part in NATO's 2017 Crisis Management Exercise. However, any application for NATO membership must be taken by Sweden alone, and the Government respects this position.

[Eastern Europe: NATO](#)

11 Apr 2018 | HL6778

Asked by: Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what coordination exists between NATO partners and those Eastern European nations most vulnerable to cyber-attacks and hybrid threats.

Answering member: Earl Howe | Department: Ministry of Defence

At its 2016 Summit in Warsaw, NATO made a Cyber Defence Pledge to strengthen both individual and collective capability. The Alliance now engages regularly with its European partners to discuss Cyber and Hybrid threats at both the strategic and operational level. The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (based in Tallinn) and the European Centre of Excellence for countering Hybrid Threats (based in Helsinki) provide expertise and encourage cooperation and information-sharing among NATO Allies, EU Member States, and their partners. The UK is a leading participant in both Centres.

[NATO: Navy](#)

28 Mar 2018 | 134341

Asked by: Kevan Jones

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking with NATO Maritime Command to increase awareness of naval readiness across the NATO alliance.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working closely with the NATO Maritime Command (MARCOM), based in Northwood, London, on a range of defence and security issues including the development of naval readiness initiatives. One example is the 'Ships Available At Sea For NATO Tasking' concept that is facilitating the integration of ships from any NATO Ally, or approved Partner Nation, into a NATO-led operation at any time.

This work supports a wider "NATO Readiness Initiative" that will strengthen NATO's readiness and operational flexibility by committing more naval capabilities to collective defence. We will continue to discuss this proposal with MARCOM in advance of the NATO Summit in July, where readiness as a whole will be a focus for the Alliance.

[NATO](#)

28 Mar 2018 | 134334

Asked by: Kevan Jones

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the UK contribution will be to NATO's new Joint Support and Enabling Command.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence

The configuration and requirements for the Joint Support and Enabling Command are being developed within SACEUR's Implementation Plan for the NATO Command Structure Adaptation. This will be refined ahead of an announcement at the NATO Summit in July. It is too early to define the UK's exact contribution but it will be consistent with the UK's leading role in the Alliance and with a fair share of the burden alongside our Allies.

[Defence: Modernisation](#)

27 Mar 2018 | 133407

Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the timetable is for the publication of the Defence Modernisation Programme.

Answering member: Gavin Williamson | Department: Ministry of Defence

We intend to be in a position to share headline conclusions from the Modernising Defence Programme in time for the NATO Summit in July.

[NATO Modernisation](#)**05 Mar 2018 | 637 c14****Asked by: Marcus Fysh**

What recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on NATO modernisation.

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Department: Defence

At last month's NATO defence ministerial, we discussed NATO modernisation. This is a UK priority, and my ambition is for a modern NATO, fit to face the new global challenges and delivering against its commitments. We will take further decisions to modernise the alliance when Defence Ministers next meet in June and at the next NATO summit in Brussels in July.

[NATO: Brussels](#)**05 Mar 2018 | HL5732****Asked by: Lord Jopling**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the decision was taken to construct the new NATO headquarters building in Brussels; when any plans for the new headquarters building were approved; what was the anticipated cost of the project at that time; whether those costs have been revised subsequently, and if so, what is the current estimated cost on completion; what the anticipated dates of completion and occupation were at the time of approval; whether those dates have been revised subsequently; and when it is expected that the old NATO headquarters building will be vacated.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

At the 1999 Washington Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government decided to build a new NATO headquarters to meet the requirements of the Alliance in the twenty first century. In 2003, the North Atlantic Council approved a design for the new headquarters with an estimated cost of €1.2 billion. These costs have been revised on a number of occasions; the current estimate is €1.17 billion. Handover of the site was originally planned for August 2015 but was delayed until March 2017 due to technical difficulties. Allies will begin moving to the new headquarters in March 2018 with the site of the current buildings returning to the Belgian Government towards the end of this year.

[NATO](#)**24 Jan 2018 | 123122****Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent progress has been made on the NATO Allied Command Transformation Programme.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence

The UK strongly supports efforts to modernise NATO, including adapting the NATO Command Structure, in response to the wide range of challenges the Alliance faces.

Further decisions are expected at the next meeting of NATO Defence Ministers next month.

NATO: Assets

01 Dec 2017 | 115444

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his policy is on participation in the NATO pooled assets programmes, with reference to the multi-role tanker transport fleet; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Ministry of Defence

The Multi-role Tanker Transport Fleet nests within the joint European/NATO acquisition programme initiated by the European Defence Agency. The UK is not a participant in the programme and we do not currently have an intention to participate. The Royal Air Force operates its own Multi-Role Transport Aircraft with Air to Air Refuelling capability in its 9 Voyager K2/K3 aircraft. These national assets form part of our national commitment to meeting the capability targets apportioned by NATO to the UK.

NATO

16 Nov 2017 | 112047

Asked by: Martin Docherty-Hughes

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on locating NATO's North Atlantic command in the UK.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence

At their meeting on 8 and 9 November 2017, NATO Defence Ministers agreed the outline design for an adapted NATO Command Structure, which will now be the basis for further work. This will include the establishment of a Command for the Atlantic, no decisions on its location have been made.

Defence: Expenditure**10 Jul 2017 | 3075****Asked by: Peter Bone**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that all members of NATO spend at least two per cent of their gross domestic product on defence.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Department: Ministry of Defence

Government Ministers and officials regularly discuss the Defence Investment Pledge (DIP) with NATO Allies. The DIP was a key outcome of the NATO summit in Wales in 2014 at which Allies agreed to spend two per cent of GDP on Defence by 2024. Progress against this target has been made but there is more to do. Defence spending by European Allies is increasing, and all Allies have agreed to commit to putting the DIP into national plans by the end of 2017. The UK already meets the DIP target, will continue to do so for the rest of this decade, and will increase Defence spending by 0.5 per cent above inflation every year until 2021.

NATO Spending Target**13 Mar 2017 | 623 c11****Asked by: Dr Julian Lewis**

May I helpfully suggest to the Minister that one way she could avoid these arguments about whether we have or have not scraped over the 2% line is to recognise that the last time we faced threats like those we face today was the 1980s, when we used to spend between 4.5% and 5% of GDP on defence? Let us settle for 3% so that we can avoid this sort of argument.

Answered by: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Defence

I appreciate my right hon. Friend's campaign. We are proud of the fact that we are spending substantially more than the 2% target; that we have a growing defence budget for the first time in many years; and that we are on track to have a £178 billion equipment plan over the next decade.

Georgia: NATO**01 Mar 2017 | 64816****Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in (a) the US and (b) other NATO member states on a potential NATO Membership Action Plan for Georgia.

Answering member: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Government ministers and officials have regular discussions with NATO Allies on the process of Georgian integration with NATO, including at last week's NATO Defence Ministerial and NATO-Georgia Commission meeting. The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) agreed at the NATO Summit in Wales (2014) supports Georgia's work to strengthen its institutions and interoperability with NATO. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw in July 2016, Allies reaffirmed their commitment that Georgia would become a member of NATO and expanded and deepened areas of cooperation under the SNGP.

Defence: Expenditure
09 Feb 2017 | HL5236

Asked by: Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's statement that the President of the United States is 100 per cent behind NATO, what pressure they are placing on those NATO members which do not contribute two per cent of their GDP to defence.

Answering member: Earl Howe | Department: Ministry of Defence

The United Kingdom meets the Defence Investment Pledge from the NATO summit in Wales, and has committed to do so for the rest of this decade. NATO's ability to deter potential adversaries requires modern capabilities, and these need appropriate funding. Government ministers regularly encourage Allies to fulfil the commitments they have made to spend two per cent of GDP on defence by 2024 (and 20 per cent of that on equipment). Better burden-sharing is an important issue for the new US Administration, and we expect this to be a focus of discussion at the NATO Defence Ministerial Meeting later this month.

NATO
01 Dec 2016 | 54549

Asked by: Nigel Dodds

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of progress on the implementation of decisions taken at the Warsaw NATO Summit in July 2016.

Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

There has been good progress on the areas agreed at the Warsaw Summit including: Operation SEA GUARDIAN went live on 9 November, allowing NATO ships to conduct surveillance activities, counter-terrorism and capacity building of regional navies in the Mediterranean; long-term training and capacity building of Iraqi Armed Forces inside Iraq from January 2017; and the deployment of an Enhanced Forward Presence of four multinational battalions to the east of the Alliance in 2017.

The Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary hosted NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in London on 23 November to discuss and maintain the momentum on this and other important security issues. The Foreign Secretary will attend NATO's meeting of Foreign Ministers in Brussels in December to further discuss work to implement the Warsaw commitments.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[NATO: Member State Spending](#)

1 February 2017 | House of Lords | 778 cc1262-1276

Lords question for short debate on what progress they have made in discussions with other NATO countries about ensuring that all member states commit to spending two per cent of GDP on defence.

5.2 Statements

[Afghanistan - Update](#)

29 Jun 2017 | Written statement | HCWS16

Sir Michael Fallon (Secretary of State for Defence): On 1 June 2017 I said that NATO had requested additional troops to support the non-combat Train Advise and Assist Resolute Support (RS) mission in Afghanistan. This request went to all countries that are part of the RS mission to implement a new strategy developed by NATO, in partnership with the Afghan Government, to reinvigorate the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). The strategy's goal is to expand governance and security throughout Afghanistan and, in turn, set the conditions for progress on a political settlement with the Taliban.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains challenging. The ANDSF are improving but the rate of their development is affected by a range of complex challenges, not least the nature and strength of a determined insurgency. The NATO strategy will address these challenges.

The Government has carefully considered the NATO request and we have decided to increase the UK's troop contribution to the RS mission by around 85 personnel. These troops will serve in non-combat roles to support directly the implementation of the NATO strategy. We will increase the number of mentors advising the Afghan Army and Police, the Afghan Air Force, and provide further support to ANDSF training and leadership development. This deployment will add to the significant contribution the UK is already making to the RS mission. We have around 500 troops based in Kabul serving in roles focused on improving the capability of the Afghan security institutions, developing the Afghan National Army Officer Academy and providing vital force protection for NATO advisors through our leadership of the Kabul Security Force. Through helping to achieve progress in Afghanistan, our troops have helped to reduce the terrorist threat to the UK from this region.

Military support is only part of the solution. Our continued military, diplomatic and financial assistance is designed to enable and support the advancement of the Afghan-led peace process to deliver a political settlement and lasting stability.

Finally, I wish to record my gratitude and admiration for all of our brave men and women who have served in Afghanistan. The UK will never forget the sacrifice made by the 456 members of the Armed Forces who died during operations there. They helped protect our country from the threat of terrorism and, through our continued support to the mission, we are working to protect their legacy.

[NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence](#)

28 Mar 2017 | Written statement | HCWS563

Sir Michael Fallon (Secretary of State for Defence): At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, NATO Allies agreed to enhance the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture in response to the growing threats the Euro-Atlantic region faces, including Russian belligerence. The UK is leading the work necessary to deliver an Alliance that is capable and credible of responding to all threats. We took the decision to provide one of the four defensive, but combat-capable, battlegroups that NATO is now deploying to the Baltic States and Poland to defend NATO. This enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) demonstrates Allies' solidarity, determination, and ability to act by triggering an immediate Allied response to any aggression.

The main body of our fighting forces will arrive in Estonia and Poland in the coming weeks.

We are providing the Framework Battlegroup of around 800 military personnel in Estonia, with around 200 additional troops from France and Denmark: French forces will join us in 2017 and Danish forces in 2018. 5 RIFLES is providing the majority of the UK military personnel for the first rotation, and we are also deploying armoured Infantry equipped with Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, artillery, tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and a small troop of Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks.

Our Battlegroup will contribute to regional defence and security. We will actively support the Estonian Defence Force's 1st Infantry Brigade in its role deterring aggression, and we will conduct joint exercising and training with Danish, French, Estonian, and other forces in the region to build a strong multinational Battlegroup.

Based on our close bilateral relationship, we are also sending a British Light Cavalry Squadron of 150 Light Dragoons to Poland. This force will fall under the US eFP Battlegroup in Poland, and we will work closely with our Polish and US Allies to deter aggression against NATO territory.

We are prepared in case our forces are tested by Russia, including through cyber-attacks and false media reports. We are taking all necessary steps to protect our personnel. We will ensure that our forces maintain the highest standards of conduct, and if it is found that a false allegation has been made against an individual or group of British Service personnel, the UK Government will ensure that the matter is publically refuted and, where possible, provide clear attribution of the originator.

Our forces in Estonia are a proportionate response to the changed security environment in Eastern Europe, as demonstrated by Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine. The eFP deployments send a strong message of NATO's strength and unity as well as its commitment to defend Poland and the Baltic States.

The UK has been transparent with Russia about our eFP plans; Vice Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Gordon Messenger discussed them with his counterpart, Colonel General Zhuravlev when they met in Moscow last month, and eFP has also been briefed to Russia at the NATO-Russia Council level.

NATO Warsaw Summit

11 Jul 2016 | Oral statement | 613 cc43-52

Statement on the NATO summit held in Warsaw on 8-9 July 2016.

[Extract – only the Defence Secretary's statement is included below]

The Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon): With permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a statement on the NATO summit held in Warsaw last Friday and Saturday.

The 2015 strategic defence and security review reaffirmed NATO's position at the heart of UK defence and security. The United Kingdom remains a leader within the alliance, with the second largest defence budget after the United States, and the largest in Europe. The range of challenges that the alliance faces, including Daesh, migration and Russian belligerence, meant that this summit was of major importance for Euro-Atlantic security. The overwhelming message from Warsaw was one of strength and unity. We believe that the summit has delivered an alliance that is now more capable and that projects stability beyond our borders, based on stronger partnerships, which collectively protect our citizens and defend Europe.

At the Wales summit in 2014, NATO agreed its readiness action plan to ensure that the alliance can respond swiftly and strongly to new challenges. The UK is at the forefront of these efforts: our Typhoons are currently conducting Baltic air-policing missions from Estonia; our ships are making a significant contribution to NATO's naval forces: and we will lead NATO's very high readiness joint taskforce next year, with 3,000 UK ground troops ready to deploy within days.

To demonstrate the allies' solidarity, determination and ability to act in response to any aggression, Warsaw builds on the Wales' commitments by delivering an enhanced forward presence in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. I am proud that the UK is one of four nations to lead a framework battalion alongside Canada, Germany and the United States. These battalions will be defensive in nature, but fully combat capable. The UK force will be located in Estonia with two UK companies, a headquarters element and equipment including armoured vehicles, Javelin anti-tank guided missiles and mortars. Denmark and France have said that they will provide troops to the UK battalion. In addition, we

will also deploy a company group to Poland. That is our response to Russian aggression. NATO's approach is based on balancing strong defence and dialogue. Dialogue remains right where it is in our interests to deliver hard messages to promote transparency and to build understanding to reduce risks of mis-calculation.

Credible alliance defence and deterrence depend on NATO's ability to adapt to 21st-century threats through both nuclear and conventional forces. The summit recognised the important contribution that the UK's independent nuclear deterrent makes to the overall security of the alliance. I can confirm that we expect the House to have the opportunity to vote to endorse the renewal of that deterrent next Monday.

Initiatives on cyber and hybrid warfare among others will give the alliance the capabilities that it needs to respond quickly and effectively. However, modern capabilities require appropriate funding and here good progress has been made against the defence investment pledge, a key commitment from Wales. Following this Government's decision to spend 2% of GDP on defence and to increase the defence budget in each year of this Parliament, cuts to defence spending across the alliance have now halted, with 20 allies now increasing defence spending, and eight allies committing in their national plans to reaching the 2% target.

Delivering the best for our country also means maximising the talent in our armed forces. The Prime Minister has accepted the recommendation of the Chief of the General Staff to open up ground close-combat roles to women. NATO's role in preventing conflict and tackling problems at source has become ever more important as threats to alliance security grow out of instability and fragile or weak states. NATO's defence capacity-building initiative, which was first announced in Wales, is a powerful tool in projecting stability and we in the United Kingdom continue to provide significant support to Georgia, Iraq and Jordan.

Building on that, the allies agreed that NATO will conduct training and capacity building inside Iraq. In Afghanistan, local forces are taking responsibility for providing security across their country. Our long-term commitment, as part of NATO's Resolute Support mission, is crucial. Next year, we will increase our current troop contribution of 450 by 10% to help build the capacity of the Afghan security institutions.

The summit also reiterated its support for our European partners, including Ukraine and Georgia. I was delighted that Montenegro attended the summit as an observer, as a clear sign that NATO's door remains open.

However, the scale of Europe's security challenges means that NATO must work with a range of partners to counter them. This summit sent a strong message of NATO's willingness to build strong relationships with other international institutions. I welcome the joint declaration by the NATO Secretary-General and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission on NATO-EU co-operation. We continue to support a closer relationship between NATO and the EU to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Our strong message to our allies and our partners was that the result of the referendum will have no impact on any of our NATO commitments and that NATO remains the cornerstone of our defence policy. The United Kingdom will be leaving the European Union, but we are not reducing our commitment to European security—we are not turning our back on Europe or on the rest of the world.

HMS Mersey will deploy to the Aegean from late July to continue our support for NATO's efforts to counter illegal migration. We will also provide a second ship—RFA Mounts Bay—to the EU's Operation Sophia in the central Mediterranean, and NATO has agreed in principle to provide surveillance and reconnaissance support to that operation too.

It is a United Kingdom priority for NATO to do more against Daesh. NATO's airborne warning and control system will now support the counter-Daesh coalition. In addition to our own assistance to the Government of national accord, we will consider what NATO can do in Libya—for example, through capacity building of the Libyan coastguard.

It is our firm view that the Warsaw summit successfully demonstrated that the alliance has the capacity, the will and the intent to respond to the range of threats and challenges that it may face. The summit also showed that Britain is stepping up its leading role in the alliance by deploying more forces to NATO's eastern borders and to NATO's support to Afghanistan and in countering illegal migration. With that strong UK leadership, Warsaw will be remembered for the concrete steps that were taken to deliver a strong and unified alliance that remains the cornerstone of European defence and security. I commend this statement to the House.

**[This statement was repeated and debated in the House of Lords:
[NATO Warsaw Summit](#)]**

6. Further reading

Website

[NATO](#)

Committee inquiries

[**The indispensable ally? US, NATO and UK Defence relations inquiry**](#)

Defence Committee (House of Commons)

The 'special relationship' and NATO are the cornerstones of UK defence. The new administrations in the UK and US face a number of complex international challenges, ranging from a resurgent Russia to the threat of international terrorism, raising questions about NATO's strategic focus and capabilities. This inquiry will explore how the administrations can build upon the 'special relationship' to address these challenges.

[**NATO and FCO officials discuss NATO Summit 2018**](#)

International Relations Committee (House of Lords)

The International Relations Committee takes evidence from Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs at NATO, and Director for Defence and International Security at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office ahead of the NATO Summit, July 2018.

The Committee's report will be published on 5 June 2018, based on the one-off oral evidence session on 18 April.

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