

US-NATO “Defensive” Military Initiatives and War Games Threaten Russia

By [Rick Rozoff](#)

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[Stop NATO](#)

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The following compilation of articles, reports and press releases from official sources was undertaken by Rick Rozoff, published on [Stop NATO](#).

We have highlighted relevant sections. What this review confirms is that the US and its NATO allies are on an active war footing. US-NATO military exercises, training and planning are being regularly conducted on Russia's doorstep in Eastern Europe, the Caspian Sea and Black Sea basins and the Baltic states.

Whereas Russia is not mentioned, these various military initiatives and “defensive” war games threaten the Russian Federation.

They involve the participation of troops from several NATO and NATO partner countries including the US, Germany, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Spain, Portugal.

What these articles and reports suggest is that Washington is anxious to mobilize military forces within NATO and NATO partner countries without the need to deploy a large number of US troops.

(M. Ch. GR Editor)

Pentagon Enhances Military Cooperation With Azerbaijan

<http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2381510.html>Trend News Agency
April 8, 2015

Azerbaijan, US to agree on military co-op

By Ilkin Izzet

Azerbaijan and the United States will agree on the issues of bilateral cooperation in the defense sector, the message of the defense ministry of Azerbaijan said Apr.8.

The message said that the conference on coordination of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the United States in the defense sector took place in the Training and Education Center of Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

During the conference, the participants discussed the work carried out in the defense sector between the two countries, the prospects for bilateral cooperation, as well as the project of

the “Work plan on military cooperation for 2016 between the armed forces of Azerbaijan and the US European Command.”

From the Azerbaijani side, the event was attended by representatives of the relevant departments and services of the ministry of defense, the three kinds of air forces army, from the US side – by the representatives of the European Command, the military attache and the Office of Military Cooperation of the Defense Department.

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Force Barbarossa: NATO Trains Spearhead Task Force Against Russia

<http://www.aco.nato.int/eleven-allies-test-nato-spearhead-alert-procedures-on-ex-noble-jump.aspx>

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

April 9, 2015

Eleven Allies Test NATO ‘Spearhead’ Alert Procedures on EX NOBLE JUMP

EINDHOVEN, The Netherlands: NATO assessed its alert procedures for the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) for the first time during Exercise NOBLE JUMP from 7-9 April 2015, involving over 1,500 personnel from 11 Allied nations. Germany, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Croatia, Portugal, and Slovenia tested their Headquarters’ response to alert procedures and high-readiness units from The Netherlands and Czech Republic physically deployed equipment and troops to airports and railheads. This activity represents an important milestone as NATO continues to respond to emerging security challenges. The exercise has its origins in last year’s Wales Summit, where NATO leaders collectively agreed to establish the VJTF, or what some call the ‘NATO Spearhead’ force. These developments are part of wider enhancements to the NATO Response Force in order to address instability on NATO’s southern and eastern flanks. “NATO military planners have been working tirelessly to enhance NATO’s Response Force and implement the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, and today our progress is manifested in the rapid deployments we see happening in locations across the Alliance,” said General Philip Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

“These measures are...a clear indication that our Alliance has the capability and will to respond to emerging security challenges on our southern and eastern flanks,” he said. For the last several months, NATO has been developing the concepts behind the VJTF and established an interim force early in 2015. Exercise NOBLE JUMP marks the first time that high-readiness units have physically tested their response to rapid ‘orders to move’ under the new VJTF framework. The training event marks a learning process that will allow NATO military staff to identify both successes and shortfalls as the Alliance continues to refine its high readiness capabilities. Czech and Dutch High-Readiness Troops Put to the Test In the afternoon of 7 April, the 11th Air Mobile Brigade in The Netherlands and the 4th Rapid Reaction Brigade in the Czech Republic were given orders to rapidly prepare to deploy their troops and equipment. “In the hours that ensued, Dutch and Czech formations recalled their military personnel to base, conducted hasty movement planning, briefed personnel, prepared and verified equipment, weapons, supplies, and vehicles,” said Colonel Mariusz

Lewicki, the head military planner for the VJTF at SHAPE.

"The lead troops were able to move in under eight hours, with all elements moving in under 48 hours, so our initial impression is we are very pleased with the results," he added. The Commander of the Dutch 11th Air Mobile Brigade, Brigadier-General Kees Matthijssen, also felt that Exercise NOBLE JUMP achieved its aims. "So far we are satisfied, our men and women responded well to the alerting and we managed to send off the first troops as scheduled. We are sure that we will be able to meet our goals, which were to move all troops and equipment within 48 hours," said Brigadier-General Matthijssen.

"Of course, we have noted some things to improve during the exercise, but this will definitely lead to further refinement and improvements of our high readiness plans," he said. A total of 900 German soldiers were also recalled to their units in Marienberg, Gotha, Idaroberstein and Bad Salzungen during Exercise NOBLE JUMP. These troops conducted similar planning and alert verifications in their respective garrisons.

The overall aim of Exercise NOBLE JUMP was to improve and refine alert and deployment procedures for the VJTF. In the coming weeks NATO military staff will conduct an analysis of the results from this exercise and Allied units will refine their tactical procedures. Lessons will be shared and NATO will continue to refine the overall alert and deployment process, and ensure it is integrated in overall plans for the NATO Response Force. "Moving military units at short notice is a highly complex process that requires careful planning and constant refinement and practice to maintain capability," said Colonel Lewicki. "We've had a very good start this week, but much work remains and we will continue exercising these concepts throughout 2015 and 2016," he said. Increasingly complex exercises, trials, and evaluations will be conducted in order to develop, refine and implement the VJTF concept into the framework of the Readiness Action Plan and the NATO Response Force. Examples of future training activity include part two of Exercise NOBLE JUMP, 9-20 June 2015, where units assigned to the VJTF will deploy to the Zagan Military Training Area in Western Poland, as well as Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 in Italy, Spain and Portugal from 21 Oct -

6 Nov 2015. Story by SHAPE Public Affairs Office

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Georgian Troops Trained For NATO Strike Force, War Games

<http://www.mod.gov.ge/?newsid=3647>

Ministry of Defence of Georgia

April 9, 2015

Light Infantry Brigade Training

"Alfa" Company of the 12th Battalion of I Light Infantry Brigade of the Georgian Armed Forces is going through a month-long field-based training. The North Atlantic Alliance representatives will evaluate the combat readiness of the military unit due to engage in the NATO Response Force.

During the field exercise, 116 servicemen of "Alfa" Company will be trained according to a combined arms tactic. The basic part of the preparation will be devoted to practical

exercises. The soldiers will practice in search and cordon, patrolling, attack and defensive operations. They will undergo staff, engineer and medical preparations as well. The training course launched on 1 April and will last till the end of the month. After completing the field-based preparations, the military unit will take part in the Joint US-Georgian Exercise “Noble Partner 2015”. A month-long training ongoing in field conditions includes preparing the military for this upcoming combined exercise too.

From August 2013 up to date, “Alfa” Company underwent pre-deployment training both in Georgia and Germany. The preparation of the military unit in Hohenfels went on within the NATO Operative Capabilities Concept. The level of combat preparation of the Georgian contingent was evaluated in the US Joint Multinational Readiness Centre (JMRC). Copyright Georgia Min of Defense, 2015

NATO’s Spearhead Force Conducts First Exercise

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_118667.htm

North Atlantic Treaty Organization
April 10, 2015

NATO’s new spearhead force conducts first exercise

NATO completed the first military drills for its new rapid reaction force, on Thursday (9 April 2015). From Tuesday (7 April 2015) through Thursday, more than 1,500 troops took part in exercise “Noble Jump,” designed to test whether troops assigned to NATO’s new Spearhead Force, or Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, could be ready to deploy 48 hours after receiving an order-to-move. Across Europe, headquarters personnel from Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Slovenia, Poland and Portugal tested their responses to NATO alert orders. In the Czech Republic and the Netherlands, troops and equipment were assembled quickly at airfields and railway stations as if they were about to depart. The units involved in this week’s exercise will also be involved in further trials in Poland in June. “NATO military planners have been working tirelessly to enhance NATO’s Response Force and implement the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, and today our progress is manifested in the rapid deployments we see happening in locations across the Alliance,” said General Philip Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe. “These measures are defensive, but are a clear indication that our Alliance has the capability and will to respond to emerging security challenges on our southern and eastern flanks,” he said.

In response to the changed security environment in Europe, NATO leaders at the Wales Summit decided to create a new quick reaction military force designed to respond swiftly to new challenges on the Alliance’s southern and eastern borders. The high readiness force will include about 5,000 land troops, with supporting maritime, special operations and air units. Lead elements of the new force will be able to move in as little as 48 hours. The Spearhead Force is part of the Alliance’s larger NATO Response Force, which is being increased to a force level of around 30,000 troops. Copyright NATO 2015

Defense Chief: NATO Is Ukraine’s Priority

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_sees_nato_as_ukraines_main_priority_330525

Ukrinform

April 9, 2015

Turchynov sees NATO as Ukraine's main priorityKYIV: The main priority for Ukraine is its membership in NATO, as it can provide real security. Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) Oleksandr Turchynov has stated this during the draft national security strategy presentation, an Ukrinform correspondent reports. "Having abandoned the policy of non-alignment, which did not provide the territorial integrity of our country in the medium term, relying primarily on own capabilities, **Ukraine reserves the right to take part in collective security systems as a way to guarantee sovereignty and territorial integrity. Sharing common values with the European Union and NATO, Ukraine considers European and Euro-Atlantic integration as its priority in foreign and domestic policy.** We see NATO membership as the only reliable external guarantee of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," he said.

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Ukrainian Junta: U.S. "Guarantor Of International Security Within Europe

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_names_strategic_allies_of_ukraine_330530

Ukrinform

April 9, 2015

Turchynov names strategic allies of Ukraine

KYIV: The main foreign policy priority for Ukraine will be strengthening of the partnership with the United States as the sole guarantor of international security within the Euro-Atlantic area. This has been announced by secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov at the presentation of the draft national security strategy until 2020, an Ukrinform correspondent reports. "The strategy identifies that the main foreign policy priority is deepening the partnership with the United States as the guarantor of international security within the Euro-Atlantic area," Turchynov said.

In addition, Ukraine is committed to the development of a "privileged partnership" with the United Kingdom, Poland, as well as Canada, Australia, Japan, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Romania, Moldova and Georgia - the countries, which Ukraine considers to be its "reliable allies." "The partnership with Germany and France, the member states of the EU and NATO, is also a priority of our foreign policy," Turchynov noted.

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Strike Force: NATO Holds War Games In Czech Republic

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-04/10/c_134138228.htm

Xinhua News Agency

April 10, 2015

NATO conducts exercises in Czech Republic

PRAGUE: A NATO exercise called Nobel Jump was held in the town of Chrudim in the Czech Republic, it was reported Thursday. "The exercise is designed to examine the activation, planning to deploy some functionality and command, control and support that are needed to

drive to go out and perform tasks as ordered,” Czech Deputy Chief of Staff Jiri Baloun was quoted as saying. Miroslav Hlavac, commander of the Rapid Deployment Brigade, said that the exercise involves more than 200 soldiers and 80 pieces of military equipment.

Some 150 Czech soldiers from the 43rd Parachute Battalion joined the NATO exercise. A similar exercise was held in the Netherlands at an air base in Eindhoven at the same time. The training is the first part of Exercise Noble Jump, the second part will continue in June in Zagan in western Poland. There will be a simulated crisis to test the capacity of the deployment of allied troops from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the Czech Republic.

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NATO To Station Communications Battalion In Bulgaria

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/167828/Bulgarian+Parliament+Passes+Bill+on+NATO+Communications+Unit>

Sofia News Agency

April 9, 2015

Bulgarian Parliament Passes Bill on NATO Communications Unit

Bulgarian National Assembly ratified the agreement for the deployment of a NATO switchboard battalion in Bulgaria. The communication-information system or the so-called NATO module will be constructed near Bulgaria's Gorna Malina. The deployment of a communication battalion of NATO in Bulgaria has been supported by 120 MPs in Parliament Thursday, with 21 voting in favor, and 5 of them abstained.

Heated debates on the topic started Wednesday with a scandal between representatives of the nationalist parties ATAKA and Patriotic Front. Leader of ATAKA Volen Siderov categorically opposed the bill, stating that the center will be used in the future for coordination of military action on the territory of Ukraine. The party urged for Bulgarian authorities to announce neutrality in order to avoid possible military threats.... In 2009 NATO's Military Committee and the North-Atlantic Council took the decision for Bulgaria to host a national mobile communications module as a part of the Second Communication Battalion to NATO. Additionally, two higher officers and 55 sergeants that will be provided by Bulgaria.

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Czech Republic: U.S. Warplanes Drill For Conflict To The East

<http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/zpravy/forward-air-control-exercise-starts-at-czech-army-base/1202246>

Czech News Agency

April 8, 2015

Forward air control exercise starts at Czech army base

Namest nad Oslavou: An exercise of Czech forward air controllers started at the helicopter base in Namest today by the arrival of four A-10 Thunderbolt planes from the U.S. air forces' 354th fighter squadron based in Germany, base spokeswoman Jana Skrivankova has told CTK. The POP UP A-10 CAS military exercise, which runs through April 17, will take place without live ammunition in the area normally used for the training of air support in the vicinity of Trebic. The U.S. planes landed in Namest at round 14:00. Training flights should start as of Thursday. "They will be on workdays from 09:00 until 23:00. Night flights will be limited to the necessary minimum," said Skrivankova.

The Czech air force have long been developing cooperation with the United States in this field, she added. The participation of the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft during the training should extend the Czech forward air controllers' (FAC) skills in the operation of state-of-the-art equipment for the identification and surveillance of targets. Soldiers will also train in the night using night-vision devices and develop communication skills in English, Skrivankova said. In addition, the exercise should focus on the development of skills of the 22nd helicopter base in the provision of logistic support for the 65-member U.S. unit, including catering, accommodation, fuel and communication and information connection.

The Ample Strike 2015 national exercise will also train the harmonisation of forward air controllers with the crews of tactic planes and helicopters during operations. It will be held in cooperation with NATO member states on August 31-September 22. Sixteen NATO members confirmed their participation at the beginning of the year.

Last year, the Ample Strike exercise took place at the Namest base and at the 21st tactic air force base in Caslav, central Bohemia, as well as in the Boletice and Libava grounds, south Bohemia. Almost 1300 soldiers from 12 NATO member states, including the Czech Republic, participated in it. It followed up the previous Flying Rhino and Ramstein Rover exercises in the Czech Republic in the past years. Copyright Czech Republic, 2015

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