



**NATO 60th Anniversary**  
*Celebrating Our Continued Alliance  
of Common Values and Security*

Information compiled by the Information Resource Center  
Embassy of the United States of America  
March 31, 2009



**NATO 60th Anniversary Summit**  
*Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany*  
*April 3-4, 2009*

On April 3-4, NATO will celebrate its 60th anniversary at a Summit Meeting of NATO Heads of State in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany.

At the Summit, the 26 current NATO Allies look forward to welcoming two new members to the Alliance, Albania and Croatia. Additionally, Heads of State will be discussing NATO operations and missions, including Afghanistan—NATO's most important mission. Other issues to be addressed include: NATO's relations with Russia, Kosovo, counter-piracy, and Alliance transformation and capabilities.

Since its founding in 1949, NATO has played a central role in Allied common security. In a recent [statement welcoming France's return to NATO's military structure](#), President Obama said, "The NATO Alliance has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security for the past 60 years. The United States is committed to its success, and knows that it is through close cooperation with Allies and partners that we can overcome our most difficult challenges. ... During my upcoming visit to France and Germany for the 60th Anniversary NATO Summit, I look forward to discussing ways to ensure that our strengthened Alliance, with France as a full participant in all its structures, will be as important in the 21st century as it was in the 20th century."

## **HISTORY OF NATO**

### **60 Years of the US Engagement in NATO**

[http://nato.usmission.gov/NATOat60/NATO\\_60th\\_slideshow.pdf](http://nato.usmission.gov/NATOat60/NATO_60th_slideshow.pdf)

### **The Washington Treaty**

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed at Washington, April 4, 1949.

Article 14 specifies that the "Treaty...shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America." The Treaty went into force on August 24, 1949, after ratification by all signatory states.

<http://nato.usmission.gov/NATOat60/NATO%20Treaty.pdf>

### **The Birth of the Emblem**

The search for a NATO emblem started nearly three years after the birth of NATO. Although the exact origins of the NATO emblem are still unclear, it is known that the basic design was conceived by a member of the International Staff. The birth of the NATO emblem and its incorporation into a flag involved many design proposals. The goal was to have an emblem that symbolized the principles of the Atlantic community.

<http://www.nato.int/60years/emblem.html>

### **Photos from the past**

Below we present several photo stories that illustrate NATO's early history.

<http://www.nato.int/60years/photos.html>

### **Videos that made history**

We are fortunate that much of NATO's early history was caught in film. In addition, NATO itself has occasionally made films about transatlantic events and issues, and about itself. The Internet now allows us to share these videos widely.

<http://www.nato.int/60years/video/videos-history.html>

## **NATO'S MAIN AGENDA ITEMS**

### **NATO in Afghanistan**

The International Security Assistance Force is a multinational force formed in 2001 to help stabilize Afghanistan. Though initially established by the United Nations, NATO has increasingly played a more significant role in ISAF. In early 2003, the North Atlantic Council decided to expand NATO's role in ISAF; NATO took over command and coordination of ISAF in August of that year. At the Bucharest Summit in 2008, the Alliance adopted a new Comprehensive Strategy for Afghanistan. Currently, there are troops from 41 nations serving in ISAF.

<http://nato.usmission.gov/Issues/Afghanistan/Afghanistan.asp>

### **Remarks by the President on a New Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan**

The White House

March 27, 2009

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-a-New-Strategy-for-Afghanistan-and-Pakistan/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-a-New-Strategy-for-Afghanistan-and-Pakistan/)

### **White Paper of the Interagency Policy Group's Report on U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan**

The White House

March 27, 2009

The United States has a vital national security interest in addressing the current and potential security threats posed by extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Pakistan, al Qaeda and other groups of jihadist terrorists are planning new terror attacks. Their targets remain the U.S. homeland, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Europe, Australia, our allies in the Middle East, and other targets of opportunity. The growing size of the space in which they are operating is a direct result of the terrorist/insurgent activities of the Taliban and related organizations. At the same time, this group seeks to reestablish their old sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Afghanistan-Pakistan\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Afghanistan-Pakistan_White_Paper.pdf)

### **Secretary Clinton on NATO-Russia Relations**

Press Availability after NATO Meeting

Secretary of State Clinton

Brussels, DC, Belgium

March 5, 2009

[http://nato.usmission.gov/Issues/NATO\\_Russia\\_Relations/NATO\\_Russia.asp](http://nato.usmission.gov/Issues/NATO_Russia_Relations/NATO_Russia.asp)

## **Secretary Clinton on Missile Defense and Europe**

Secretary of State Clinton

Brussels, DC, Belgium

March 5, 2009

[http://nato.usmission.gov/Issues/Missile\\_Defense/MD.asp](http://nato.usmission.gov/Issues/Missile_Defense/MD.asp)

## **NATO Faces Growing Challenges as 60th Anniversary Approaches**

America.gov

March 23, 2009

Afghanistan, Russia are main substantive focus of anniversary summit

<http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2009/March/20090323165934sjhtrop9.029567e-03.html?CP.rss=true>

En español [http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-](http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-spanish/2009/March/20090324172835emany0.6179315.html)

[spanish/2009/March/20090324172835emany0.6179315.html](http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-spanish/2009/March/20090324172835emany0.6179315.html)

## US REPRESENTATIVES SPEECHES

### **Remarks By President Obama and NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer After Meeting**

The White House

March 25, 2009

NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, held his first meeting with President Obama in the White House on March 25, 2009. They discussed the operation in Afghanistan, a priority for NATO and the United States.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-by-President-Obama-and-NATO-Secretary-General-Jaap-de-Hoop-Scheffer-After-Meeting/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-President-Obama-and-NATO-Secretary-General-Jaap-de-Hoop-Scheffer-After-Meeting/)

### **"NATO: A Strong and Effective Alliance for the Future"**

Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Permanent Representative

World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

December 10, 2008

[http://nato.usmission.gov/ambassador/2008/Amb\\_Volker\\_WACP\\_121008.htm](http://nato.usmission.gov/ambassador/2008/Amb_Volker_WACP_121008.htm)

Ambassador Kurt Volker biography

[http://nato.usmission.gov/Bio/Ambassador\\_Volker\\_Bio.asp](http://nato.usmission.gov/Bio/Ambassador_Volker_Bio.asp)

### **Remarks by Vice President Biden at Press Conference with NATO Secretary General**

NATO Headquarters Brussels, Belgium

March 10, 2009

Less than a month from today, NATO is going to meet to celebrate the 60th anniversary of NATO. There's a great deal to celebrate, but there's also a great deal left to do. The Alliance has been the cornerstone of our security since the end of World War II. And to state the obvious, it has anchored the United States in Europe. And I believe it's been helpful in forging a Europe whole and free. There's much to celebrate, as I said, but there's also much to do.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-by-Vice-President-Biden-at-Press-Conference-with-NATO-Secretary-General/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-Vice-President-Biden-at-Press-Conference-with-NATO-Secretary-General/)

## **INTERESTING DOCUMENTS AND WEB SITES**

### **Security-Related Think Tanks and Major Transnational Sites**

NATO Defense College

[http://www.ndc.nato.int/research/res\\_thinktanks.html](http://www.ndc.nato.int/research/res_thinktanks.html)

### **NATO Review Magazine**

<http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2009/0902/EN/index.htm>

### **NATO's Open Door**

An educational video explaining the Alliance's open door policy, past rounds of NATO enlargement, and future perspectives.

<http://www.natochannel.tv>

### **Six colours, Six Stories, Six Film-makers**

A series of short videos illustrating the impact of NATO activities on the daily lives of citizens.

[http://www.nato.int/ebookshop/video/six\\_colours/SixColours.html](http://www.nato.int/ebookshop/video/six_colours/SixColours.html)

### **NATO's poster campaign in the DC metro**

<http://nato.usmission.gov/NATOat60/RC5025736.pdf>

### **NATO Game for Kids**

<http://www.nato.int/multi/mapgame/indexen.html>

### **NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programm**

<http://www.nato.int/science/touchscreen/index.html>

### **NATO 60th Anniversary Summit: An Agenda for American Leadership**

The Heritage Foundation

March 25, 2009

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Europe/bg2254.cfm>