Allied Command Operations Overview

An Introduction to the Organisation and Responsibilities

SHAPE/ACO Digital Media

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NATO Organisation - Political/Military

NATO Headquarters
- North Atlantic Council (NAC)
- Nuclear Planning Group (NPG)
- International Staff
- Other Committees
- Military Committee

International Military Staff

Strategic Commands
- Allied Command Operations
  - Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)
  - General Tod D. Wolters
- Allied Command Transformation
  - Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT)
  - General Philippe Lavigne

Secretary General
Jens Stoltenberg

Chairman
Military Committee
Admiral Rob Bauer
NATO Organisation - Political/Military

- Military Committee (Brussels)
- Allied Command Transformation (Norfolk, VA - USA)
- Allied Command Operations (Mons, BE)
- Joint Forces Command-Brunssum (NLD)
- Joint Forces Command-Naples (ITA)
- Joint Forces Command-Norfolk (USA)
- Joint Support & Enabling Command JSEC (Ulm, DEU)
- Cyber Operations Center (Mons, BEL)
- NATO Special OPS Headquarters (Mons, BEL)
- Standing Joint Logistic Support Group (Mons, BEL)

Political
Strategic
Operational
Tactical
NATO Organisation - Command Structure

- Allied Command Operations (ACO) under the command of Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), is responsible for the planning and execution of all NATO military operations, as directed by the North Atlantic Council.

- ACO consists of a strategic-level headquarters, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) located in Mons (Belgium), along with three Joint Force Commands (JFC) in Naples (Italy), Brunssum (the Netherlands), and Norfolk (USA) each of which is capable of deploying up to a major joint operation capable headquarters out of area, and a Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC) in Ulm (DEU) to provide a range of logistic support to any operation in the AOO.
NATO Organisation - Command Structure

- Allied Command Operations (ACO) under the command of Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), is responsible for the planning and execution of all NATO military operations, as directed by the North Atlantic Council.

- ACO is further organised into six major tactical-level commands for air, land, sea operations, one for special operations, one for cyber operations, and one for logistics, each with a dedicated headquarters.
NATO Organisation - Command Structure

- Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is at the forefront of NATO’s military transformation and under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT).
  - ACT’s main responsibilities include education, training and exercises, and promoting interoperability throughout the Alliance.
  - ACT operates the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learnt Centre in Lisbon (Portugal), the Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz (Poland) and the Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger (Norway).
The **NATO Force Structure (NFS)**, is composed of allied national and multinational forces and HQs, provides rapidly deployable, mobile, sustainable and flexible multinational forces and their command and control capabilities under SACEUR’s authority.

The NFS includes packages of capabilities consisting of **Graduated Readiness Forces (GRF) HQs** (joint, land, air and maritime), Special operations and other combat forces and appropriate supporting assets.
The **NATO Response Force** (NRF) consists of a highly capable joint multinational force able to react in a very short time to the full range of security challenges from crisis management to collective defence.

- NATO Allies decided to enhance the NRF in 2014 by creating a “spearhead force” within it, known as the **Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF)**.

- The operational command of the NRF alternates between Joint Force Commands in Brunssum and Naples.

- The decision to deploy the NRF is taken by the **North Atlantic Council (NAC)** at the political level, not military.
NATO Organisation - Centres of Excellence

- **Centres of Excellence (COEs)** are international military organisations that train and educate leaders and specialists from NATO member and partner countries. At present there are 25 COEs in NATO.

- COEs assist in doctrine development, identify lessons learned, improve interoperability and capabilities, and test and validate concepts through experimentation.

- COEs offer recognised expertise and experience that is of benefit to the Alliance, and support the transformation of NATO, while avoiding the duplication of assets, resources and capabilities already present within the Alliance.
NATO Organisation - Centres of Excellence

- Allied Command Transformation has overall responsibility for COEs and is in charge of the establishment, accreditation, preparation of candidates for approval, and periodic assessments of the COEs.

- COEs are nationally or multi-nationally funded.

- NATO does not directly fund COEs nor are they part of the NATO Command Structure.

- The COEs do not fall under SHAPE Command and Control; ACT has coordination authority with the COEs.
NATO Organisation - Centres of Excellence

- There are 25 Centres of Excellence:
  - Air Operations COE
  - Cooperative Cyber Defence COE
  - Counter Intelligence COE
  - Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices COE
  - Civil-Military Cooperation COE
  - Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE
  - Crisis Management and Disaster Response COE
  - COE for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters
  - COE for Cold Weather Operations
  - Command and Control COE
  - COE Defence Against Terrorism
  - Energy Security COE
  - Explosive Ordnance Disposal COE
  - Human Intelligence COE
  - Joint Air Power Competence Centre
  - Joint Chemical Biological Radiological & Nuclear Defence COE
There are 25 Centres of Excellence:

- Military Engineering COE
- COE for Military Medicine
- Military Police COE
- Modelling and Simulation COE
- Mountain Warfare COE
- Naval Mine Warfare COE
- Stability Policing COE
- Strategic Communications COE
- Security Force Assistance COE
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - Facts and Figures

- SHAPE responsibilities:
  - Develops military policy within the framework of NATO
  - Provides military advice to NATO’s political and military leadership (NATO HQ, Brussels)
  - Prepare for, plan and conduct military operations, including Force Generation, in order to meet Alliance political objectives
  - Leads COVID Task Force as strategic enabler, implements and monitors Consequence Management Measures to ensure readiness
  - Together with other Subordinate ACO commands, plan for and execute NATO led exercises
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - Facts and Figures

- SHAPE history:
  - April 2, 1951 SHAPE was activated at the Hotel Astoria, Paris, FRA.
  - In Summer 1951 the HQ moved to its new location in Rocquencourt, west of Paris.
  - In March 1967 SHAPE moved to Mons, BEL.
  - App. 7,000 military and civilian personnel
  - 58 Nations (30 NATO + 28 Partners)
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - Command Group

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)

Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR)

Chief of Staff (COS)

Vice Chief of Staff (VCOS)

Strategic and International Affairs (SIA)

Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL)

GENERAL Tod D. WOLTERS
US Air Force
03 May 2019
“dual-hatted” as COMMANDER US European Command

GENERAL Tim RADFORD
British Army
03 April 2020

ADMIRAL Joachim RÜHLE
German Navy
30 September 2020

Lieutenant GÉNÉRAL Brice Houdet
French Army
19 July 2020

Mr Stephen Covington
Civilian

Command Sergeant Major Siim SALISTE
Estonian Army
30 April 2019

UNCLASSIFIED
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - SACEUR Priorities

- Ensure Ready and Postured Forces
  
  To deter and counter trans-national threats, and enable global operations

- Strengthen Strategic Partnerships and Build Partner Capacity, Capability and Interoperability

- Adapt to a Complex and Dynamic Strategic Environment

- Develop Resilient Service Members, Civilians and their Families
  - Ensure a healthy command climate
  - Support comprehensive fitness
  - Promote quality of life

“Securing our future together”
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - C2 Structure

- JFC Brunssum
- JFC Norfolk
- JFC Naples
- HQ LANDCOM
- HQ AIRCOM
- HQ MARCOM
- JSEC
- NATO CIS Group

Sub-organizations:
- RSM
- NRF (2020)
- KFOR
- NRF (2021)
- NS2AU
- NSDS Hub
- NRF
- AP
- BMD
- OSG
- eFP
- Signal Battalions

Countries:
- POL
- DEU
- ITA

NMI

UNCLASSIFIED
Joint multinational force: highly trained & ready to use 5,000 + 35,000 troops Deployable on short notice (notice to move 2-5 days)
SHAPE/ACO Organisation - Operations, Missions, Activities

- NATO Mission Iraq (NMI)
- Kosovo Force (KFOR)
- Operation Sea Guardian (OSG)
- Enhanced Forward Presence
- NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System / BMD
- NATO Air Policing / AWACS
- Tailored Forward Presence
- Support to African Union
SHAPE/ACO organisation - Web/Digital Media presence

Shape.nato.int
Facebook.com/SHAPE
Facebook.com/NATO.NCO
Twitter.com/SHAPE_NATO
Instagram.com/nato.military
Linkedin.com/company/260566
Youtube.com/user/SHAPEACO
Flickr.com/photos/shapenato