

**TESTIMONY OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
GENERAL PETER PACE  
PREPARED FOR THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
NATO ENLARGEMENT AND POST-WAR IRAQ  
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you here today to discuss the U.S. military's role in NATO enlargement and post-war Iraq. I'd like to first thank you for the continued bipartisan support that you give to the men and women of our armed forces. That support is appreciated, and it is critical to our operational success.

NATO continues to prove its relevance today while members and aspirants alike transform to be relevant in the future. Recently, the Alliance provided support for Turkey and sent the correct message to Iraq – NATO will defend its members. NATO also continues to support the War on Terrorism. The Alliance is conducting counter-terror operations in the Mediterranean, escorting unarmed ships through the Strait of Gibraltar, conducting maritime intercept operations off the Horn of Africa and relieving the United States in a number of areas with critical support. NATO's military capabilities will be enhanced with the addition of the seven invited countries.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

At the Prague Summit, NATO invited Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to join the Alliance because each of these nations has demonstrated the ability to make a contribution to the Alliance. They have made a firm commitment to the basic principles and values set out in the North Atlantic Treaty, and to the stability and security of the North Atlantic area. The accession of each of these nations will enhance NATO's military effectiveness.

Already these nations exhibit "member-like" behavior, and demonstrate their readiness to accept the responsibility of membership. Each is providing military forces to operations in the Balkans. All seven are providing forces, capabilities or assets in support of the on-going operations in Afghanistan and to the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. For example, Bulgaria provides basing for U.S. aircraft in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and has a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) detection unit deployed as part of the coalition forces in Iraq. Estonia deployed an Explosive, Ordnance and Disposal team to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF.) Two Latvian medical teams have

deployed to Afghanistan to support ISAF. A Lithuanian Special Operations Force unit is deployed in Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom and a medical team is deployed with ISAF. Romania deployed—and transported with its own airlift—an infantry battalion and a military police platoon to Afghanistan. It also deployed an NBC unit to Iraq, and is providing basing for U.S. forces in support of both operations. Slovakia deployed an engineer unit to Kabul and an NBC unit to support the war in Iraq. Slovenia donated three battalions worth of arms and ammunition to the Afghan National Army Training Project. By their military contributions to these on-going operations, each of these nations has demonstrated an immediate relevance and a capacity to bring special capabilities that are in great demand. Yet these nations contribute more than just forces and capabilities; they also provide access to critical infrastructure that is of great military value to the Alliance and the United States.

While they continue to develop special capabilities, they also continue to restructure and to modernize their armed forces. Participation in the Membership Action Plan (MAP) and in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programs over the years has enabled these countries to make significant strides in reforming their armed forces, making them more

capable, more deployable, and more interoperable. The reforms underway are significant and will take several years to complete.

The 1999 round of NATO enlargement, which resulted in the accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, taught us many lessons. First, we learned that a larger alliance is still able to achieve consensus on issues of critical importance to its members. Second, new members bring energy, enthusiasm and a strong desire to demonstrate their willingness to share the responsibilities of membership. Third, we have learned that new members are eager to share with invitees and aspirants their own experiences in defense reform and in preparing their militaries to join NATO. And finally, we were reminded that real defense reform and development of a truly professional force is a long-term process.

#### **NEW CAPABILITIES**

As it grows larger in membership, NATO must also grow militarily more relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> century threats. The Alliance has begun to make significant progress under the banner of "New Capabilities". At the Prague Summit, Heads of State and Government made a commitment to a new concept for the Alliance, to create a NATO Response Force that is

rapidly deployable and capable of expeditionary operations. They also agreed to streamline an inefficient and unnecessarily large command structure, and to make real improvements in the military capabilities of member nations through what is called the Prague Capabilities Commitment.

The current NATO command structure has 31 headquarters or other entities distributed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In its current form, the command structure is inefficient, regionally focused, and not suited for today's challenges. In June, however, we expect Allied Defense Ministers to approve a much improved Command Structure.

The new NATO command structure will be considerably leaner, having shed 14 headquarters. This will enable the Alliance to realize personnel savings and to fully man the headquarters that remain.

Important portions of the new Command Structure will be deployable and built for joint operations—another significant change for NATO. The Alliance has the opportunity to break out of its Cold War structure and create a capability to conduct operations wherever and whenever needed.

The proposed Allied Command for Transformation based in Norfolk, Virginia will be responsible for the training of NATO staffs and deployable headquarters, for common

military education, doctrine, and force planning for the Alliance, and for documenting lessons learned from operations.

The NATO Response Force is well on its way to becoming a reality. It will be a truly joint combined force that can execute the range of Alliance missions from humanitarian assistance to combat operations. It will be a rotational force that consists of land, air, and maritime forces that have trained and exercised together.

This initiative will not only give NATO a credible and rapidly responsive force, it will serve as a vehicle for Alliance transformation. Nations will be responsible for ensuring that the elements they contribute to each rotation of the NATO Response Force have been the focus of their capabilities improvement efforts and resources. Over time, the number of these more capable and experienced units will increase, leading to an overall improvement in Alliance military capabilities. This force is scheduled to have an initial operational capability by October 2004, and to achieve full operational capability by October 2006.

The Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) rounds out the "new capabilities" initiative by seeking specific, short-term, focused military procurement by Allies. Heads of State and Government agreed on these capabilities as

essential to fielding a force that will prevail in modern combat or stability operations. Nations committed to specific measures and timelines to fix capability shortfalls in four priority areas: transporting and sustaining Allied Forces; connecting Allied Forces; fielding more modern combat elements; and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) and Missile Defense. All agreed to implement all aspects of the PCC as quickly as possible. For the PCC to succeed, Allies will have to make the financial commitment to obtain required military capabilities.

The military changes NATO has undergone since 1991 have been substantial, but the changes in 2003 and 2004 will be more significant and executed in a much shorter period of time. The Alliance is making the effort to become more relevant to the new security environment. NATO continues to serve as an important part of US military strategy to protect and defend our trans-Atlantic interests.

#### **POST-WAR IRAQ**

Although difficult tasks remain, the Coalition's continued military success demonstrates that the liberation of Iraq is at hand. My focus today is on what we envision the military's responsibilities to be in post-war Iraq.

Our primary military tasks in post-war Iraq are security and stabilization. The establishment of a secure environment will enable the provision of humanitarian assistance, preservation and repair of key infrastructure, elimination of WMD, and restoration of civil services and representative government.

Essential post-war stabilization tasks cover a broad range of issues, touching on virtually every sector of the Iraqi economy and system of governance. Since we do not know at this moment the exact condition of the country after the termination of hostilities, we do not know exactly what military forces will be required, nor for how long they will be required. However, we are planning across the range of conditions, whether the country stabilizes quickly and the security environment is relatively benign, or in the worst cast, where the situation is more chaotic and there are more tasks requiring the use of coalition forces.

As a secure environment is established, we will assist in the process of rapid transition to Iraqi control. The Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), under the command of General Franks, the Commander of U.S. Central Command, includes staff from all relevant U.S. departments and agencies. The ORHA has already moved



to Kuwait, and is working in close partnership with international institutions, including the UN and our coalition partners. It will deploy to Iraq as soon as possible to coordinate the post-war effort.

The coalition military forces have demonstrated speed, flexibility and precision throughout this war. They stand ready to provide a secure and stable environment for post-conflict activities, allowing the people of Iraq the opportunity to make their own decisions regarding their future. Thank you.