



**NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL
PRACTICAL COOPERATION FACT SHEET
NOVEMBER 2012**



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Introduction

In 1997 NATO and Russia signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, which provided the formal basis for NATO-Russia relations and led to the development of a bilateral programme of consultation and cooperation under the Permanent Joint Council (PJC).

In 2002 the relationship was given new impetus and substance with the signature of the Rome Declaration on “NATO-Russia relations: A New Quality”, which established the NATO-Russia Council. At that time NRC Heads of State and Government agreed to enhance their ability to work together in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to their countries’ security. The 2010 NRC Summit in Lisbon was another important step towards a closer cooperation between NATO Allies and Russia by initiating new projects on areas of mutual concern.

This year, 2012, is particularly significant for NATO-Russia relations. We are marking the 15th anniversary of the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the 10th anniversary of the NATO-Russia Council. Over those 15 years, the NATO-Russia Council has developed a number of practical cooperation projects in the following areas of common interest.

Counter-narcotics training of Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani personnel

Launched by NRC Foreign Ministers in December 2005 the NRC Project for Counter-Narcotics training¹ addresses the threats posed by the trafficking of Afghan narcotics. In cooperation with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) it seeks to build local capacities and to promote regional networking and cooperation by sharing the combined expertise of NRC nations with mid-level officers from seven beneficiary countries: Afghanistan,

¹ It is a joint endeavour of many NRC nations – Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States – as well as non-NRC contributing nations - Finland (since 2007) and Ukraine (since 2012), together with the project's beneficiary countries



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Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Fixed training takes place in institutes located in Russia (Domodedovo Training Institute and North Western Institute), Turkey (Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organised Crime) or the United States (Quentico). Moreover, mobile courses are being conducted in each of the beneficiary countries. At the Lisbon Summit NRC leaders agreed to expand the scope of the project to provide further direct assistance to institutional capacity-building in the future. To date more than 2,500 officers have been trained under this NRC project, with over 600 counter narcotics officers being trained on 35 separate courses in 2012 alone. In 2012, a specialised course for Drug Units Commanders from Afghanistan was also introduced and the Project also started a forensic training component. The first mentoring project was launched, with the placement of a counter narcotics training expert at the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Academy in Islamabad.

Helicopter Maintenance Trust Fund

At the Lisbon summit NRC leaders agreed to establish an NRC Helicopter Maintenance Trust Fund to enable the Afghan Armed Forces to operate their helicopter fleet. The project was officially launched at the NRC Ministerial meeting in Berlin in March 2011 with Germany as lead nation and NATO Support Agency (NSPA - formerly NAMSAs) serving as the project's executing agent. The goal of the NRC Helicopter Maintenance Trust Fund is to contribute to the ability of the Afghan Air Force (AAF) to operate its fleet of 36 Mi-17 and 11 Mi-35 helicopters more efficiently, by providing training for the Afghan maintenance technicians and required helicopter spare parts. Ten donor nations² have contributed to the Trust Fund project, providing maintenance and repair capacities, including spare parts and technical training. Tailored training for Afghan Air Force helicopter maintenance staff started in April 2012 at the Novosibirsk Aircraft Repair Plant in Russia. So far two training courses have been successfully completed with 19 trainees completing the training being reintegrated back into the Afghan National Army Air Corps as of September 2012. The final training group is due to start in January 2012. Thirty Afghan maintenance staff will be trained by April 2013. A train-the-trainers course for the two best students is also due to take place at the Croatian Air Force base in Zadar.

² Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Russia, Turkey and United States



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Support for ISAF and the Afghan Armed Forces

In spring 2008, NATO asked the Russian Federation to allow the land transit of non-military equipment for ISAF contributors across Russian territory in support of the NATO-led, UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. At the Lisbon Summit, NRC leaders agreed on amendments to the 2008 arrangements allowing land transit of non-lethal cargo both to and from Afghanistan. In July 2012 the arrangement on a multi-modal transit (air, rail, road) was signed making use of Ulyanovsk airport in Russia.

Combating terrorism

In December 2004, NRC foreign ministers launched an NRC Action Plan on Terrorism to improve overall coordination and provide strategic direction for cooperation in this area. At Lisbon, NRC leaders underlined the continued importance of cooperation in the fight against terrorism. In April 2011, NRC foreign ministers approved an updated Action Plan in Berlin. A first civilian-military counter-terrorism table top exercise within the NRC framework was conducted at NATO Headquarters in March 2012. The NRC provides several platforms for regular exchanges of information and in-depth consultations on various aspects of combating terrorism such as the below listed Cooperative Airspace Initiative or the STANDEX project, which enables the stand-off detection of explosive devices in mass transport environments. The Big City Trial in the Paris Metro is due to take place in 2013. Another important focus of ongoing work is countering improvised explosive devices (C-IED). In September 2012 the NRC held a seminar on Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in the Post-2014 Environment in cooperation with the EOD Centre of Excellence in Trencin, Slovakia. The NRC also held a seminar recently to share experiences in hosting high visibility events. Over the years, several Russian ships have been deployed in support of Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime operation against terrorism in the Mediterranean.

Cooperative Airspace Initiative

On this project significant progress has been made, providing early notification of suspicious air activities and air-traffic transparency by facilitating predictability and interoperability in airspace management. Based on a feasibility study completed in 2005, detailed system requirements and a



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project plan were agreed to enable the reciprocal exchange of air traffic data between centres in participating NATO countries and in Russia. The operational readiness of the CAI system was demonstrated during counter-terrorism exercise Vigilant Skies 2011. It was the first such joint live-flying, real-time counter-terrorism exercise, during which Polish, Russian and Turkish fighter jets intervened in response to the simulated hijacking of a passenger aircraft by terrorists. Subsequently the system was declared operational in December 2011. A follow on simulated computer-based exercise took place in November 2012 to test and consolidate CAI processes, procedures and capabilities. Regular CAI exercises will continue starting with a LIVEX in 2013. The CAI system consists of two coordination centres, in Moscow and in Warsaw, and local coordination sites in Russia (Murmansk, Kaliningrad, Rostov-on-Don) and in NATO member countries (Bodo, Norway; Warsaw, Poland; and Ankara, Turkey).

Countering piracy

Piracy is one of the common security challenges identified in the Joint Review of 21st Century Common Security Challenges approved at Lisbon. Cooperation at the tactical level between NATO and Russian ships off the Horn of Africa started in 2008. To enhance further cooperation, NRC nations are seeking to strengthen information exchange and coordination and are considering possible mutual support, such as replenishment at sea and medical assistance.

Missile defence / Theatre Missile defence

NRC theatre missile defence (TMD) cooperation has been ongoing since 2002. In accordance with the Rome declaration "NATO-Russia relations: A New Quality", adopted on May 28th, 2002, work to assess the interoperability of relevant TMD systems of the parties was begun and a number of TMD exercises was conducted – in the USA (2004), in the Netherlands (2005), in Russia (2006) and in Germany (2008), but in August 2008 TMD cooperation was suspended.

At the NRC Lisbon summit on November 20, 2010 heads of state and government agreed to resume TMD cooperation and to develop a Comprehensive Joint Analysis of the future framework for missile defence cooperation. At the moment there are differences in Russian and NATO approaches towards the aims and objectives of building a missile defence in



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Europe. However discussions, including the work on the Joint Analysis of the future framework for Russia-NATO missile defence cooperation, are ongoing.

The format of TMD exercises was also changed. While the 2004-2008 exercises focused on hypothetical crisis response operations, after 2010 different options for the TMD architecture in a notional area in the European region were simulated during the computer-assisted exercise (Germany, March 2012). The results of the exercise will inform the work on the Joint Analysis of the future framework for Russia-NATO missile defence cooperation.

Non-proliferation and arms control

Dialogue on a growing range of issues related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) has developed under the NRC. A number of in-depth discussions and expert seminars were held to explore opportunities for practical cooperation in the protection against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. At the Lisbon Summit, NRC leaders emphasised their strong support for the revitalisation and modernisation of the conventional arms control regime in Europe and their readiness to continue dialogue on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The NRC Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (ADN) Working Group was designated as an appropriate forum to address most of these issues. Meetings of this Group contribute to confidence-building, future cooperation and bilateral NATO-Russia dialogue touching upon a wide range of topics related to multilateral WMD non-proliferation regimes and mechanisms, small arms and light weapons proliferation, WMD terrorism, smuggling and others. The Joint NRC Statement, agreed ahead of the 7th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in December 2011, reflected certain common elements in positions of NRC member states.

Defence transparency, strategy and reform

With a view to build mutual confidence and transparency, dialogue is ongoing on doctrinal issues, strategy and policy, including their relation to defence reform, force development and posture. Past initiatives launched in the area of defence reform have focused on the evolution of military, management of human and financial resources, reform of defence industries, managing the consequences of defence reform, and defence-related aspects of combating terrorism.



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Defence industrial cooperation

A broad-based “Study on NATO-Russia Defence Industrial and Research and Technological Cooperation”, launched in January 2005 and completed in 2007, concluded that there is potential in combining scientific and technological capabilities to address global threats. The defence industrial sphere is an area of potential for the NRC, where existing practical cooperation can be pursued and further opportunities identified.

Logistics

Logistics form the backbone of any military operation. In today's security environment, the need for more mobile forces and multinational operations calls for improved coordination and the pooling of resources, wherever possible. Various initiatives are pursuing logistic cooperation on both the civilian and military side. Meetings and seminars have focused on establishing a sound foundation of mutual understanding by promoting information-sharing in areas such as logistic policies, doctrine, structures and lessons learned. Opportunities for practical cooperation are being explored in areas such as air transport, fuels interoperability, medical services, and water purification. Cooperation is being extended through drafting a joint NATO-Russia document on fuels interoperability and preparation for Exercise Capable Logistician 2013.

Nuclear weapons issues

NATO and Russia have an established record of cooperation. To support future dialogue, experts have developed a glossary of nuclear terms and definitions. Joint exercises and discussions were held between 2004 and 2007 to increase transparency, develop a common understanding of nuclear weapons safety procedures, and build confidence on the full range of capabilities to respond effectively to emergencies involving nuclear weapons. Expert seminars have also been held to discuss nuclear doctrine and strategy (2005, 2009 and 2011), nuclear weapons incident/accident lessons learned (2007) and potential responses to the detection of improvised nuclear or radiological devices (2010). Future activities could focus on transparency, safety/security, and nuclear doctrine and strategy.



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Military-to-military cooperation

Since the NRC was established, military liaison arrangements have been enhanced, at the Allied Commands for Operations and for Transformation, as well as in Moscow. A key objective of military-to-military cooperation is to build trust, confidence and transparency, and to improve the ability of NATO and Russian forces to work together in preparation for possible future joint military operations. A “Political-Military Guidance Towards Enhanced Interoperability Between Forces of Russia and NATO Nations” was approved by NRC Defence Ministers in June 2005. NATO-Russia military-to-military cooperation currently focuses on six areas: Logistics, Combating Terrorism, Search and Rescue at Sea, Counter Piracy, Military Academic Exchanges and Theatre Missile Defence/Missile Defence. Regular reciprocal military visits are conducted, focusing on practical operator-to-operator contacts.

Submarine-crew search and rescue

Work in the area of submarine-crew search and rescue at sea intensified following the signing of a framework agreement in February 2003. Russia took part in NATO’s exercise Sorbet Royal, in June 2005. The experience and networks developed during the exercise contributed to the success of an actual rescue operation in August 2005 off the coast of Kamchatka peninsula. Russia also participated already in the exercise Bold Monarch 2008. During the search-and-rescue exercise Bold Monarch 2011 a Russian navy submarine, supported by three Russian ships, for the first time was fully integrated into a NATO-led exercise off the coast of southern Spain. Follow-on exercises for 2013 and 2014 on search and rescue at sea are also under preparation.

Crisis management

NATO and Russia have a long history of cooperation in crisis management. In fact, between 1996 and 2003, Russia was the largest non-NATO troop contributor to NATO-led peacekeeping operations. Since 2002, the NRC has taken steps to prepare for possible future cooperation in this area, notably through the approval in September 2002 of political aspects of joint NATO-Russia peacekeeping operations. Tested in a procedural exercise between 2003 and 2004, the aim is to explore common approaches, establish a



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framework for consultation, planning and decision-making during emerging crises, and define issues related to joint training and exercises.

Civil emergencies

NATO and Russia have been cooperating since 1996 to develop a capacity for joint action in response to civil emergencies, such as earthquakes and floods, and to coordinate detection and prevention of disasters before they occur. Moreover, it was a Russian proposal that led to the establishment in 1998 of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, which coordinates responses to disasters among all countries of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (the 28 NATO members and 22 Partner countries). The NRC has a key focus on cooperation in this area to develop capabilities to manage the consequences of terrorist attacks. Two disaster-response exercises held in Russia (Bogorodsk, 2002, and Kaliningrad, 2004) and another in Italy, in 2006, have resulted in concrete recommendations for consequence management. Another table-top consequence-management exercise was hosted by Norway in 2010. Current work is focused on risk reduction, capacity-building and cooperation in the area of civil preparedness and consequence management related to high visibility events.

New threats and challenges

Since 1992, scientific and technological cooperation between NATO and Russia was developed in the framework of the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. This Programme fosters collaboration among scientists from NATO and Partner Nations. Under the NRC Science for Peace and Security Committee, promising work is taking place on confronting new threats and challenges through scientific cooperation. Key areas include explosives detection, protection from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents, counter-terrorism, defence-related environmental issues, and the forecast and prevention of catastrophes.

Expert Group on Terminology

Glossaries on the entire spectrum of NATO-Russia cooperation have been developed. These are aimed at facilitating better understanding of terms and concepts used by NATO and Russia. In June 2011, an NRC Consolidated Glossary of Cooperation was published containing 760 pages and covering



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some 8,000 terms. Additional glossaries have since been developed (such as on missile defence) and work on a counter-piracy glossary is being taken forward.

In late 2011, language training cooperation between NATO and Russia started, with the aim to certify the activities of the Linguistic Centre of the Military University based on the Russian MoD language training standards coherent with NATO STANAG 6001.

Raising public awareness of the NRC

The NRC web site (<http://www.nato-russia-council.info/>) was launched in June 2007 to increase public awareness of NRC activities. All NRC nations have stated their commitment to explaining the merits of NATO-Russia cooperation to the public. Work to develop a more user-friendly and interactive NRC website is ongoing. In 2011, a foundation was laid for holding regular joint PR experts seminars between PDD/IS and Russian MOD Press Service and Information Department.