



Consists of military/civilian staff from member nations.
Personnel work in international capacity for the common interest of the Alliance.

Role

Our role, as NATO's International Military Staff, is to provide the best possible strategic military advice and staff support for the Military Committee.

Vision

In upholding a reputation for excellence, our vision is that we will be widely respected as a highly motivated, properly trained and empowered team that is well-led and cared for at all levels and which always displays intellectual agility, decisiveness and pride.

Values

The IMS team embraces the principles and values enshrined in 'People first, Mission always.' Our people work with professionalism, integrity and commitment. They also promote continuous learning and the need for resilience, initiative and open communication in an environment in which each individual is respected and that is totally free from discrimination and prejudice.

Following the Heads of State and Government direction at the Chicago Summit, a review of the IMS was initiated. While major structural and organizational changes are not likely, it will be important that the IMS is reconfigured and its 'ways of working' are adapted to reflect Future NATO and the move to the new NATO HQ.



International Military Staff

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International Military Staff

Strategic Military Advice and Staff Support for NATO's Military Committee



0320-15 NATO Graphics & Printing

The International Military Staff (IMS)



The IMS is the executive body of the Military Committee (MC), NATO's senior military authority. It is responsible for preparing assessments and studies on NATO military issues identifying areas of strategic and operational interest and proposing courses of action. It also ensures that NATO decisions and policies on military matters are implemented by the appropriate NATO military bodies.

The IMS's work enables NATO's Military Representatives to deal with issues rapidly and effectively, ensuring that the MC provides the North Atlantic Council (NAC) with consensus based advice on all military aspects of policy, operations, and transformation within the Alliance.

The IMS is an independent body within NATO that comprises approximately 500 dedicated military and civilian personnel from NATO's member states, working in an international capacity for the common interest of the Alliance, rather than on behalf of their country of origin.

The strength of the IMS lies in exchanging information and views with the staffs of the Military Representatives, the civilian International Staff (IS), the Strategic Commanders, multinational Working Groups, and NATO Agencies, ensuring effective and efficient staff work.

The Director General of the International Military Staff (DGIMS)

The IMS is led by the DGIMS, a General/Flag officer, selected by the NATO Chiefs of Defence from candidates nominated by Member Nations. The DGIMS is responsible for the coordination between the decision-making bodies of the Alliance, the two Strategic Commanders, national military delegations from NATO and Partner countries working in Brussels, and the civilian International Staff, that support the Secretary General and the NAC, in order for the IMS to provide the best possible policy advice to the MC.

The DGIMS reports to the Chairman of the MC (CMC), takes part in all MC meetings (both in Chiefs of Defence format and the meetings in Permanent Session), also attending the NAC and senior political meetings, and holds regular meetings with the Directors of the six IMS functional areas in order to observe the progress, provide direction, and assign new tasks and projects.

The current DGIMS is Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper, UK Air Force.

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper KBE MA CCM RAF joined the RAF in 1976. His early tours saw him flying the Jaguar and the CF-18 in the UK and Germany. He went on to command No 41(F) Squadron and RAF Coltishall. Sir Chris was mentioned in dispatches for his personal involvement in air operations over Iraq in 2001 and was appointed a CBE in 2002. More recently, Sir Chris has served as Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group; the Deputy Commander of NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum, and as the UK's Military Representative to NATO and the EU. He was appointed a KBE in 2011 and, following an election by NATO's Chiefs of Defence Staff, took up the appointment of Director General of the NATO International Military Staff in July 2013.



Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper, Director General of the International Military Staff, discussing issues with Directors and Heads of Offices at the IMS Executive Group Weekly Meeting.



The Ukrainian Frigate Hetman Sahaidachny deployed in the Gulf of Aden as part of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield.



Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper addressing his staff at the Town Hall meeting.

Current NATO Operations

Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan. On January 1st 2015, NATO opened a new chapter in its relationship with Afghanistan. The new RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission's main focus is to train, advise and assist the Afghan security forces. This new NATO-led mission is different from the ISAF one and the force is significantly smaller in size. RESOLUTE SUPPORT focuses on eight essential functions: strategy and policy planning, resourcing and execution; budgeting; personnel management; force generation and sustainment; and transparency, accountability and oversight. In all those areas, the objectives are to help the Afghan security forces, security ministries and institutions as well as the higher levels of the Afghan army and police develop the processes and mechanisms they need to become sustainable in the long term. RESOLUTE SUPPORT operates in Kabul and four other locations: Mazar-i-Sharif (north), Herat (west), Kandahar (south), and Laghman (east).

Kosovo Force (KFOR). Since June 1999, NATO has led a peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. Initially composed of 50,000 troops following the March 1999 air campaign, the force now numbers around 5,100 NATO member and Partner Nation personnel.

Operation OCEAN SHIELD (OOS). The Alliance's counter piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin, is being conducted with several ships and air assets, in close coordination with many international actors. For the first ever, in 2013, a NATO Partner Nation, contributed.

Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (OAE). The Alliance's only Article V mission conducts counter terrorism operations in the Mediterranean with the participation of Partner Nations.

NATO deployment of Patriot Missiles to Turkey. Six Patriot missile batteries are currently operating under NATO command and control in Southern Turkey in order to augment Turkey's air defence capabilities to defend its population and territory.

NATO also provides assistance to the **African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)** and capacity building support to its long-term peacekeeping capabilities, in particular the African Standby Force.

NATO Air Policing missions in the Baltic States and the Balkans contribute to air space management by scrambling at short notice and taking deterrent actions against trespassers.

In addition, some 90 NATO military personnel in **Sarajevo, Skopje and Belgrade** assist with defence and security reform. The International Military Staff is also represented in **Moscow** (Russia), **Kiev** (Ukraine) and the **United Nations** through its military liaison officers.

The Organizational Structure of the IMS

The **Intelligence (INTEL) Division** provides intelligence support to all NATO HQ elements, NATO member states and NATO Commands. The Division provides strategic warning and situation awareness to all NATO HQ elements. Its core activities are: developing a NATO Intelligence framework, architecture and intelligence capabilities; providing customer oriented policies and NATO Agreed Intelligence Assessments; advising on intelligence sharing matters and conducting intelligence liaison activities.

The **Operations (OPS) Division** closely monitors ongoing NATO operations, follows exercises and training and provides advice on all related NATO operations. It also follows the implementation of decisions taken by the MC with regard to NATO operations. The Division's core activities: crisis response planning and operations; management of contingency reactions to international crises; planning and conducting all operations of air, land and maritime matters.

The **Plans & Policy (P&P) Division** is involved in all policy and planning matters such as Alliance defence policy and strategic planning. This division supports and gives military advice to the DGIMS and the Chairman of the MC essentially on three areas: Strategic Policy and Concept; Nuclear Deterrence and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Policy; Defence and Force Planning.

The **Cooperation & Regional Security (C&RS) Division** develops military Cooperative Security policy and is the main point of contact for NATO HQ military Cooperative Security with Partners from the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and with Partners Across the Globe. Additionally, C&RS is the main military contact with all non-NATO member states who conduct operations with the Alliance.

The **Logistics & Resources (L&R) Division** develops and defines policies and principles, plans and concepts on all matters concerning logistics, medical, armaments, research and development, and civil emergency planning. In addition, the Division is the focal point for NATO's military manpower, financial resources and security investment issues.

The **NATO Headquarters C3 Staff (NHQC3S)** supports development of policy standards and provides analysis and advice to NATO in the Consultation Command and Control (C3) domain. It is an integrated staff (IS/IMS) and reports to both DGIMS and Assistant Secretary General/Defence Investment (ASG/DI) while advising the NAC through the C3 Board and the MC on C3. The NHQC3S also works closely with the Assistant Secretary General/ Emerging Security Challenges (ASG/ESC) in support of the Alliance in all Cyber Defence matters and provides MC advice on its military aspects. Additionally, the NHQC3S supports the C3 Capability Area Manager in the coordination of C3 Capabilities.

The NATO HQ Situation Centre

The Situation Centre (SITCEN) serves as the focal point within the Alliance for the receipt, exchange and dissemination of information. It monitors political, military and economic matters of interest to NATO and partner countries and not partner countries on a 24-hour basis. The SITCEN also provides facilities for the rapid expansion of consultation during periods of tension and crisis.